

WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 1995

SECTION TWO

PAGES OF JOBS for lawyers andaccountants

Around the world three letters send a chill down the spine of the enemy: SAS. And those letters spell out one clear message: don't mess with Britain?

Tories salute nationalism of Portillo

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Michael Portillo yesterday reasserted his claim to the future Conservative leadership with a shamelessly theatrical appeal to the nationalist sentiment of the party's right wing and a promise to resist moves towards a European Unioo defence policy. Mr Portillo's pledge oot to

join a single European army and declaration that UK servicemen were ready to give their lives for Britain but not for Brussels" came as the climax of a day that had seen the party at last begin to reunite over Europe in anticipation of the coming general election.

Mr Portillo emerged the undisputed champion of the conference's first day with a speech that was authorised by John Major and which delighted most activists by invoking the spirit of the SAS, seeking to repel Labour's claim to be the patriotic party and witheringly mocking the EU's competence to handle

issues of defeace.

The Secretary appeared to set fresh limits to tentative British involvement in moves already under way to increase intergovernmental co-opcration on defence declaring that "it would be absurd, as some of our a new transatiantic free trade partners are orging, to try to merge our defence comerge our defence co-operation into the European the UK would cootinue to Community". The wildly cothusiastic reception for his

As for Portillo ... ZIUWIT, newspapermen were slack-jawed and white faced at the sheer gung ho relish with which he took on the factual world.

and defeated it with overwhelming verbal/force

measured conference per-European formance that Britain would oow work to overcome protectionist tendencies within the US and EU to establish accord.

work for closer European

on terms compatible with the "pre-emineoce" of Nato. And he reiterated that Britain would respond to any further

integration with a cool assessment of where the balance of British interest is to be found". The Foreign

derided the idea that Britain's insistence on protecting its own interests would mean a loss of influence or a twospeed Europe, adding in an echo of his Chatham House speech last month that "while influence is a crucial objective of foreign policy it is a means to an end, not an end to itself". He amplified his speech - which also received a standing ovation - by making clear afterwards that Britain would resist any extension of qualified majority voting at next year's inter-governmental confer-

With Lord Tebbit, and even Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, welcoming the speech - if not its deliberately bear shift towards Europopulist content - over- sceptic rhetoric by Mr Major adowed Malcolm Rifkind, and Mr Rifkind, it was left to the Foreign Secretary, who John Redwood, Mr Major's announced in a more challenger in the July measured conference per leadership election, to press the Prime Minister from the conference fringe to go further by declaring that Britain would oot join a

ence on the EU's future.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said last night that Mr Portillo's "extreme, juvenile and ill-informed antidefence co-operation, but European tirade" showed a

monetary unico".



Right track: Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, saluting the Tory conference after his strongly Euro-sceptic speech

Cabinet's most charismatic licensed right-winger, Mr second ballot.
Portillo weot a long way in his Mr Redwood speech towards recovering his position as the Thatcherites'

champioo after scriously some delegates took to be a Howard, the Home Secretary, son. The FTSE-100 index losing ground as a result of subliminal reference to Mr said that while the threat to closed 50.2 points lower at Mr Redwood's boldness in Portillo's Spanish ancestry, "I British nationhood from the 3460.1 as the Conservative Britain's defence history and losing ground as a result of defence needs". He added: Mr Redwood's boldness in "Nobody in Britain is resigning from the Cabinet suggesting that we replace the and challenging Mr Major, British armed forces." and the bungled installation But in his role as the of a Portillo campaign HQ in case the contest went to a

> Mr Redwood - who opened his fringe speech last night by declaring, in what

Portillo's Spanish ancestry, "I am glad I was born British" said that "mooetary union is creeping European federal-now setting country against ism and Labour's plans for country and causing untold pain in the economies in

Europe". Meanwhile, in a speech to the Conservative Political Ceotre last night, Michael IRA had abated, that from devolution had oot.

Political jitters took their toll of financial markets, with £13bn wiped off the value of shares at one point yesterday afternoon, writes Tom Steven-

Party's flagging fortunes compounded a raft of other worries dogging the markets.

The slide in equity markets was the worst fall since Juoe, sparking fears of the stockmarket crashes that have historically occurred in

Britain to host Bosnia talks if ceasefire holds

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

IE YOUG

NHATIT

TAKES?

Britain is to host a Peace Implementation Conference on Bosnia if the ceasefire due in Sarajevo last night leads to successful negotiations between Serbs, Muslims and Croats.

Cootinued fighting and prob-lems in the reconnection of gas, electricity and water to the Bosnian capital delayed the final ceasefire announcement. Bot the British, American and French governments are now so committed to the success of the peace talks that a schedule for oegotiations, giving each nation a role, has

been agreed. President Bill Clinton, the driving force behind the peace initiative, wants the warring parties to meet in a secret location, somewhere in the

France hit by pay strike

section

ONE

More than 3 million of France's public

sector workers responded to a call by

unions for a day of strikes and demons-

trations yesterday. The day of action se-

riously disrupted public transport and

education, with thousands of schools

closed. The primary cause of the strike

was the wage freeze announced by the

Prime Minister, Alain Juppé. Page 3

If they achieve agreement, the scene will move to Loodon, where the British Government will oversee a conference to discuss the task of the oew Peace Implementation Force. British soldiers are expected to join around 25,000 US troops sent to Bosnia to enforce the peace, employing far tougher rules of engagement as they take over from United Nations forces.

Announcing the meeting yes-terday, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, told the Conservative Party conference that the meeting would settle the role, size and duration of the force. It would also consider future humanitarian needs, assess reconstruction plans and organise future elections.

"The people of Bosnia will need help in implementing the continuest United States for a peace agreement and assis-

IN BRIEF

BT in bills row

British Telecom has been

accused of breaking its li-

cence because it has let

some companies off bills

escalated by telephone

frand while demanding

payment io full from

other victims of phone

tries," Mr Rifkind said. The final seal will be set on a treaty to end the war at a full-scale in-

ternational conference in Paris. These grand schemes, however, remain so tenuous that no date can yet be set for the Londoo conference, although the Foreign Office expects that it could take place at the end of November.

The United Nations appears to have been cut out of the negotiations and its unhappy role in the Balkans is clearly winding down. Yesterday the UN an-nounced that its civilian head of operations in Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, would leave his post in three weeks time. Mr Akashi drew bitter criticism among US officials and military leaders, who disliked his unwillingness to authorise air action against the Bosnian Serbs.

Light in Sarajevo, page 12

West trial 'burial threat'

The victim of an alleged sex attack by Rosemary and Fred-erick West told Winchester

Crown Court yesterday that

she was threateoed with be-

ing kept alive in the cellar at

25 Cromwell Street and then

buried muder the streets of

Gloucester.

Now OJ Simpson faces trial by board game

JOHN CARLIN

You've watched the trial; you've seen the television movie; you've read the books; you've bought the OJ wristwatch. Now

you can play the game.
OJ Simpson, who will be hlessing NBC tonight with his first post-trial television interview, is said to be contemplating a civil suit against the manufacturers of a board game. called "Squeeze the Juice".

In the game each player takes the part of one of Mr Simpson's six defence lawyers. Players roll. dice to advance around the board. The winner is the player/lawyer who collects the most cash from Mr Sumpson.

While the game can last many hours because the OJ Defence Fund" is inexhaustible, pitfalls exist to ensure that



OJ: Celebrity borrowed to make fortunes at Christmas

rupt and fall away. This can happen, for example, as a consequence of landing once too ofteo on the "contempt of court: pay \$10,000 fine" square.

Squeeze the Juice is doing a roaring trade in California. where 300 toy stores stock it. But .. sooner or later players go bankthere is a rival on the way.

The People vs Of Simpson Itivia Game" is described by its inventor, Bill Zucker of Massachusetts, as "both a learning experience and a test of knowl edge". Each player is a detective who moves around the Los Anwho moves around the Los Angeles area gathering murder evidence and answering questions such as "What is Judge Lance Ito's favourite hobby?" (collecting hour glasses). Mr Zucker says he will donate

part of his profits to a shelter for ttered women but also expects to become rich. "We're hoping it will be the hottest Christma item of 1995," he said.

A competitor could, perhaps be a tell-all book by Mark Fuhrman, the racist Los Angeles detective who ruined the prosecution case. Clearly Mr Fuhrman has money coming in from somewhere - possibly a publisher - for he has been seen this week holidaying in Bermuda.

COMMENT

Bryan Appleyard: Goodbye to gay activism. Page 19 Polly Toynbee: Why moral engineering cannot be applied to the single-parent family. Page 19
Miles Kingtor on Mozart: the sex, the party. Page 19
Another View: Lord Gowrie on the Government's

promises. Page 18 Leading Article: "Disney is now attempting to co-opt the historical princess Pocahontas, merging true stories with their cartoon shadows. They should develop a sense of humility in the presence of

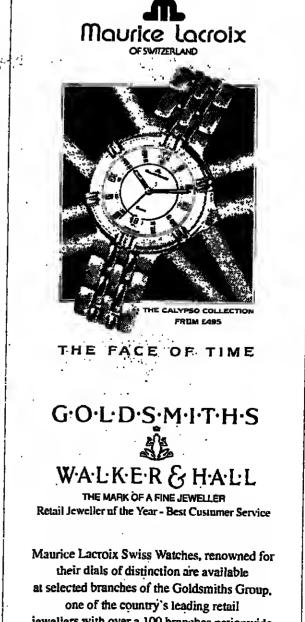
Weather: England and Wales will again be bright and warm with good sunny spells. Most areas of Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be fine and warm. Section Two, page 21 Section Two, page 21



Concert half poaching row

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hackers.

section TWO

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IN BRIEF

Call for global audit of thalidomide cases

A global audit of children born to thalidomide victims was urged yesterday to allay fears that birth defects caused by the drug can be passed on. Dr Nigel Brown, head of the Medical Research Council's Tera-

tology (congenital matformation) Unit in London, said that

a survey would go a long way lo answering the lears of the first

generation of parents.

Cromwell Street trial: Woman tells court how she was raped, assaulted and threatened by murder case couple

Wests 'told victim she would be buried'

WILL BENNETT

The victim of a sex attack carried out by Rosemary and Frederick West told yesterday how she was threateoed with being kept alive in the cellar at 25. Cramwell Street, and then huried under the streets of

Gloucester.
Caroline Owens was in tears as she left the witness box at Winchester Crown Court after giving harrowing evidence of how she was seized by the Wests, gagged with tape, bound and taken to Cromwell Street where she was raped and sexually assaulted.

Mrs Owens, 39, told the court that Mr and Mrs West were angry with her when she tried to make a noise to attract the attention of someone else who was in the house after the attack in December 1972.

She said: "He told me that he would keep me in the cellar and let his black friends use me and when they had finished with me he would hury me under the paving stones of Gloucester. He said there were already hundreds of girls there and that the police would not find me.

Earlier another witness. Elizabeth Agius, told the court that the Wests used to go out in their

CHARLES ARTHUR

Technology Correspondent

British Telecom has been

accused by the telecoms regu-

lator, Oftel, of breaking its

licence, hecause it has let some

victims of telephone fraud off

their hills while demanding

erential treatment to companies

that have bought the BT Merid-

ian switchboard - described by

ooe telephone hacker as being

as secure as "a car which has no

locks and just a switch for the

programme facilities in com-

puterised switchboards over

the phone, letting them make

calls to any oumber in the

world, for any length of time.

The bills go oo to the compa-

ny's account. The Meridian

IAN RIDLEY

A group of nine Britons and one

Dane suspected of being foot-

ball hooligans on their way to

England's international match

in Oslo were yesterday arrest-

ly deported after checks into their backgrounds and the rest

were detained at police head-

quarters pending further investigation. In addition, two

Britons were arrested for

shoplifting.
The 10-strong party was taken to Oslo fur questioning after being stopped by police un

a train at Sarpsborg near the Norwegian-Swedish border

Two others were immediate-

ed by Norwegian police.

Telephone liackers can re-

BT has only given this pref-

payment in full from others.

car to pick up young girls who they might be able to get in to prostitution and that Mrs West went hecause they were more

likely to accept a lift. Mrs West, 41, denies 10 charges of murdering girls and ynung women whose remains were found at 25 Cromwell Street and at the Wests previous home in Gloucester. Fred West, who was charged with 12 murders, was found dead in his prison cell on New Year's Day.

The prosecution alleges that seven of the victims were bound and gagged and kept alive while they were sexually abused and that five of these were abducted while hitch-hiking nr making other inurneys and subsequently buried in the cellar at 25 Cromwell Street.

Mrs Owens told the jury of eight men and four women that she was first picked up by the Wests when she was hitchhiking in Gloucestershire in the autumn of 1972. They offered her a job as their nanny but she left after just five or six weeks because she did not like Mr West and went hack to live with her family in Cinderford. Glaucestershire.

On 6 December, 1972, she

Oftel warns BT to

waive hacking bills

their system. One company

with almost 50 external phone

lines found that every one was

husy at 4am as hackers ex-

BT is understood to have sub-

sequeotly waived hills run up by

telephone hackers in at least

four organisations, including

an oil company hased oear

London, a national computer

recruitment agency, the British arm of an American entertain-

ment corporation, and a large

Scottish company. All used the

Meridian switchboard. But BT

has refused to waive a £20,000.

hill caused by backing at Tech-

nocom, based in Slough, which

uses a switchboard bought from

should grant a similar waiver to Technocom. In a letter to Tech-

to reprogramme because its crimination." But BT insists er companies whose Meridian

take" and that its standard pol-

Britons held as Norway

goes on hooligan alert

of Comhat 18, an English neo-Nazi group believed to have in-cited the riot that halted

England's match against the Re-public of Ireland in Duhlin last

Under a new Norwegian law,

foreigners can he deported if

they have been convicted in the

last five years of a crime that

would carry a three-month jail

sentence in Norway. The two ar-

rested for shoplifting are from

Newcastle and charges were being considered last night.

All police leave in Oslo has

been cancelled and around 500

officers - all trained in riot con-

trol - are on duty. They are be-ing helped by officers from the

International Football Intelli-

gence Unit in London, who are

Oftel has oow told BT it

nocom it says: "Not to do so . In a matter of weeks they ran

would put BT in breach of its up bills of more than £20,000.

a different company.

switchboard was especially easy licence condition on undue dis-

foor-digit codes could be that the waivers were "a mis-

the flaws in the system last It is cootesting Oftel's decision.

year when a number of com-panies discovered hackers using David Guthrie, managing di-rector of Technocom, said yes-

BT became abruptly aware of icy is to enforce payment of bills.

ploited its weaknesses.



West, right, end a report in e Gloucestershire newspaper of the Wests'

up again. She said Mrs West got in the back of the car with her and after they left Gloucester

is when Fred said what are her tits like. She started to grab hold of me grinning and laughing, oot a nice laugh. Then she

terday: "BT is giving credit to these people who bought Meridian, and that's unfair.

The money they give to them

could go to reducing everyone

He added: "I think that they

gave a couple of people this waiver and that when more

came along they realised they

had opened Pandora's Box."

However, BT insists that its pol-

earlier this year. In November

and December last year his

company's switchboard was

freephone oumbers and repro-

used by hackers, who rang in on

grammed the switchboard so

that they could call other com-

panies, in order to cover their

tracks, or make international

calls at the company's expense.

switchboard was backed into

told the Independent: "BT nev-

er told us that the switchboard

could be hacked so easily ... It's

the sort of thing you would

mounted police are on standby. Some 400 England fans are

travelling with the Football As-

sociatioo's official Travel Club

but about 300 more are ex-

pected to arrive independent-

ly without tickets. "If they have no tickets they will not get into the stadium," said the assistant chief of police, Oeystein Berg-

er. "If they have no tickets and

come to make trouble we have

enough police to deal with

them and enough room in our jails. We are quite confident this

will pass off without trouble."

The England coach, Terry

Venables, said that the team

wanted no repeat of Dublin nr the scenes during the last visit

to Oslo, for a World Cup qual-

ifying match in June 1993. He

Mr Guthrie wrote to Oftel

icy has oot changed.

were struggling with each oth-er and I was trying to get her off and he turned round and started punching me and calling me names like 'bitch'," said Mrs Owens. She said she was then knocked unconscious.

back with a scarf and they had tape around my head all the way round my mouth and the back of my head. It was a gag. Rose was holding me and Fred was putting the tape round."

Sometimes biting her lip as she relived her ordeal under the impassive gaze of Mrs West just

her to 25 Cromwell Street, Mrs West continuing to touch her between her legs and there she was taken to an upstairs room where Mr West took the gag off, cutting her face with a knife

undressed, gagged this time

folded. She was sexually assaulted and while Mrs West held her less apart Mr West heat her genital area with a belt.

She said Mrs West then performed oral sex on her and later Mr West raped her when his wife was out of the room. She said that afterwards "Fred started crying and said he was sorry he had done it. He said I was there for Rose's pleasure.

While her attackers slept Mrs Owens, still bound and naked, said she tried to escape but could not lift the window.

The following morning she heard another man's voice in the house and tried to make a noise to attract his attention but Mrs West put a pillow over her face and it was after that that the threat to keep her in the cellar was made. "I was scared. frightened to death," said Mrs

She was then astonished to be offered her old job back and accepted because this was her chance to escape. She went home and told her mother about the attack and she called m the police.

Earlier the court was told by Mrs Agius, a neighbour at the West's previous home at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester, how

with cotton wool and blind- the Wests used to go out in their car as far away as London looking for young girls to pick np.
"He liked 15- to 17- year olds. hopefully she would be a virgin. They had the opportunity to go

and live with them and be on the game if they wanted," she said. Mrs Agius said Mr West wanted to have sex with her and that Mrs West suggested the three of them go to bed. She said she declined both offers.

She said that on one visit to 25 Cromwell Street, which the Wests had just bought, Mr West showed her the cellar and said it could a children's playroom but added: "Or I could make this my torture room." Mrs Agins said: "They were such a close couple. They were the type of people that didn't hide anything from one another."

Cross-examined by Richard Ferguson for the defence, who accused her of trying to cash in on the case involving her former neighbours, Mrs Agius admitted she had contacted the Suo with her account of living next to the Wests and had also been paid £750 each by two television channels for her story, to be used after the trial. She believed

the first was from ITV and the second the BBC. The case continues today.

WPCs

jailed for

supplying

drugs

Two women police officers were

jailed for a year yesterday after they admitted supplying and

ossessing drugs.

Constables Elizabeth Hartley

and Lisa Wilkinson, both 25, face certain dismissal from Lan-

cashire police force and are like-

ly to be kept in an isolation wing

while in prison for their own

The women, from Colne,

Lancashire, pleaded guilty to

possessing amphetamines and

cannabis, possessing the two

drugs with intent to supply and

supplying the two drugs. Hart-

ley also admitted possessing

ecstasy, the class-A dance drug.

heads and were close to tears

during their seotencing. The

Recorder of Liverpool, Judge

William Wickham, said: "Police

officers are trusted by the com-

munity not to deliberately flour

the law as you did, deliberately taking prohibited drugs and

... you deliberately supplied drugs to a girl you had met on

James Gregory, for the de-fence, said earlier: "Anyone

with any maturity, bearing in mind their role in life, would ap-

preciate the lunacy of it, but it

is too late now to reflect on that

Liverpool Crown Court heard how amphetamines,

cannabis and the ecstasy were

found in the flat the pair shared

Guy Gozem, for the prose

cution, told the court that in Au-gust 1994 Lancashire police drug squad saw a number of

people delivering drugs to the flat, which they later searched

and found 22g of cannabis

worth £66, more than five

grammes of amphetamines worth £50 and two ecstasy

Mr Gozem said a letter

found at the flat from a girl the

pair had met on holiday made

clear they intended to supply her with the drugs. It read: "To

Liz, please find enclosed cheque

for £80. I think it's eoough. £45

tablets worth £10 each.

with Joho Roherts, also 25.

for both of them."

The officers bowed their

JASON BENNETTO

Crime Correspondent

The Thalidemide Action Group UK says there are nine cases where the children born to thelidomide victims have similar deformities to their parents, it also says other cases have been reported in Bolivia. Japan, Germany and Belgium

Dr Brown says all the availabic evidence suggests that the defects cannot be pussed on, but a controversial Australian doc-tor claims he has shown how thalidomide can disrupt DNA. the genetic code of inheritance.

£1.5m van raid

Two armed robbers fled with £1.5m cash from a Security Express van waiting outside a National Westminster bank in north London. They escaped in a white Bedford van after tying up the two security staff.

Postman jailed

Steven Watson, 22, from Collingham in West Yorkshire, who stole money, postal orders and vouchers from birthday cards during his delivery rounds to fund his heroin habit, was iailed for nine months by a judge at Leeds Crown Courl.

Army base closes

The last "guard" from the 1st Battalion The Black Watch have officially vacated their North Howard Street base at the Falls Road in west Belfast. which was the first Army base established in the area when violence broke out more than 25 years ago.

Victoria Cross sold

The first Victoria Cross awarded to a Jewish soldier fetched £35,288 at auction in London, Corporal Issy Smith's prized First World War medal - won for his bravery during a battle on 26 April, 1915, at St Julien in Belgium - was bought by a private English collector.

Dr Peggy Noms

Our 17 July comment on the agony of the parents of baby lan Stewart may have given some readers the impression that there was doubt about the medical qualifications of Dr Peggy Norris, chair of Alert, the antieuthanasia pressure group. Dr Norris has asked us to point out that she qualified as a general medical practitioner in 1948 and was in general practice for a children's hospital in Dublin and working for the United Nations in Germany with concen-

tration camp survivors. Sticking to her man

A woman who superglued herself to her husband during a jail visit to prevent him being deported was told he could stay in Britain, but only for a week, alter appealing to the High Court. However, Jacqueline de Marre. 27. from Gillingham, Kent. has heen banned from seeing her Algeriao husband, Hassan,

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ter when the Wests picked her turned round in his seat and we

Mr West asked her if she had had sex with her boyfriend that day. Mrs West put her arm round her and started touching Mrs Owens said: "I think that

was hitch-hiking from Tewkes-bury to Cinderford via Glouces-the legs. He pulled up and

When I came round my arms had been tied behind my

across the court room. Mrs Owens said: "I didn't think I was going to go home again."

She said the Wests drove

which he used to remove it.

Mrs Owens said she was then

All that glitters: Floral beaded tinsel-town dresses, by Giorgio Armani, shown as part nation a bad name and it is something we want no part of."

of the spring end summer cottections in Milan. The Armant cotlection was the final something we want no part of."

Milan show for the spring ready-to-wear season

Photograph: Peter Macdiannid int cotlection was the finat smoke, £10 E, £25 speed. I've Photograph:Peter Macdiannid left it hlank for you to fill in."

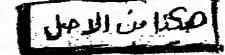
while seeking entry from Denadded: "It just gives the whole monitoring ports, airports and mark. At least nue of the group Osin's Central Station, and are is suspected of heing a member checking passports. Dogs and AST. Breaks through the

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Bombs, boycotts and scandal: Six months of discontent from Chirac's election to a mass walk-out



13 June Chirac announces that France will esume nuclear testing in the South Pacific. Boycotts of French products take hold in southern hemisphere but also. more damagingly, in



Bomb at Saint-Michel Metro people and njures 80. Slow ingers public but suspicion centers on extremist Algerian groups.

7 September France detonates its first test at Muroroa Atoli, provoking worldwide outrage and wide-scale riots in Tahiti. 20 September

Prime Minister Juppé's draft budget for 1996 fails to impress either in France or abroad. It includes concessions to special interest groups and tax rises but little on Chirac's pledge to reduce unemployment. September: Running battles between French and German officials over whether the franc will be ready to join European Monetary Union in 1999.

Mr Juppé faces renewed accusations that he fixed low rent flats for his son - and publicly funded renovations for his own appartment - while finance officer for the City of

France detonates second South Pacific bomh, 10 times larger than the first.

10 October One-day strike by seven unions representing 5 million civil servants, local authority employees hospital staff and other public sector workers to protest against 1996 wage freeze.

Millions join day of protest over pay freeze

STEPHEN JESSEL

Encouraged by an opinion poll that showed substantial public support, France's public sector employees responded in huge numbers to a call by seven unions for a day of strikes and demonstrations yesterday.

Union sources claimed that 70 per cent of public sector workers - three and a half million in all - had taken part, seriously disrupting public transport, Education also suffered, with thousands of schools closed or providing nothing more than supervision for pupils turning up for classes. Other sources put the figure at 50 per cent of workers.

The Minister for Public Services, Jean Puech, criticised the one-day strike, the most extensive demonstration of union discontent since October 1986, as "immoderate", hut Marc Blondel, secretary general of the Force Ouvrière confederation, which is particularly strong in the public sector, said that there would he further action if demonstrators' demands were

The primary cause of the strike was the wage freeze an-nounced by the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, for 1996, although public-sector unions also took the opportunity to show their discontent about pension reform proposals and possible

ara tana je

Caren V

Mr Puech said his "door was always open for real social dialogue", and claimed that in spite of the freeze, wages in the public sector would rise next year by 1.4 per cent as a consequence of automatic seniority increases and existing agreements. He also said the total wage hill would rise next year by 3.2 per cent. Other politicians on the right took a more forthright view of the day of action,



Pillorying the president: strikers mocking Jacques Chirac as they took to the streets of Paris in protest at next year's wage freeza

duct of "the privileged", an ing for the unions, against 26 per

Public opinion appeared to

epithet angrily rejected by cent disapproving. Even privatesector employees and the unemployed gave majority backing

space of a few days, with an by contrast, a poll in Le Fig. Gare St Lazare. The procession opinion poll in Le Purisien news gare a week ago had found an a paper showing 57 per cent back. Simost even spirt between those miles, and the number of agree a common approach. Mr by the unions, how many would have gone to work if there had been transmit was relatively lightly supported agree a common approach. Mr by the unions, how many would have gone to work if there had been transmit was relatively lightly supported agree a common approach. Mr

who said they felt solidarity with the unions and those who did not. In Paris, demonstrators took part in a march from the Bastille to a square near the

demonstrators was put at anything between 22,000 and 100,000. A worrying aspect of the demonstration for the government was the united front

Puech said about 55 per cent of public sector employees had stayed away from work, but it was not possible to identify

about 14 per cent of hospital staff stopped work, according to the authorities.

Enormous traffic jams built up on approach roads to Paris early in the day as drivers, encouraged by the news that po-lice would not be issuing parking tickets, tried their luck and took their cars to work. Many used bicycles, in spite of air pollution created by sever-al days of unseasonably warm and windless weather, and an in-

trepid few took to roller-skates. Main line and underground train services were badly affected and few underground trains ran, though the service improved later in the day, and about one bus in four was operating. Air travel was worse hit than predicted, with several airports in the south of the country closed. Little post was delivered, and most government and municipal offices were closed. Staff at the meteorological office refused to is-

sue weather forecasts. President Jacques Chirac, on a visit to Spain, said that he was confident that France would meet the convergence criteria for European economic and monetary union laid down by the Maastricht treaty. The freeze on public sector pay is part of the strategy of cutting the budget deficit to the required level by 1997. The deficit must be reduced from its current 5 per cent of gross national product to 3 per cent if the country is to qualify for a European single currency.

In Washington Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Bank Photograph: Nicholas Turpin of France, expressed his "total determination" to maintain the stability of the franc. After a sur-The strike was solid among teachers, with the education vey showed a fall in consumer confidence, rumours circulated ministry putting those who stayed away at 60 per cent and in the bond markets that Eutervened on foreign exchanges to support the currency. The in the health sector, where only Bank declined to comment:

'Salaries not nuclear tests'

Paris — "Juppé out, Juppé out," shouted the hospital work-ers. "United we stand, united we win," screamed the banners of the postal workers and the po-lice. "No to the freeze," shout-ed the teachers and "No to privatisation" declared the banner of the electricians.

The train drivers and the Métro drivers shouted: "Chirac, you kill us." And all across the city traffic ground to a halt as public servants took to the streets in the biggest demonstration seen in France for nearly 10 years.

Disgust at President Jacques Chirac's Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, who plans a public sec-tor pay freeze next year, was clear. Workers carried posters of a "frozen" Mr Juppe, with icicles hanging from his nose and ears. 'Juppe, nous vous rechaufferons" - Juppe, we will heat you up, said the banners. But the outrage which spilled

on to the streets yesterday was

As Pan's ground to a halt, Sarah Heim should they expect to have pay rises? I have had no rise for 12 joined the protesters on the boulevards

concern over pay. Strikers emphasised their fears for the fu-spend less on defence. He ture, and questioned changes coming from Brussels which could force privatisation and bring in cheaper workers from

France's public service work-ers were being "sacrificed", they claimed, for the sake of reducing the French budget deficit in time for monetary union. "Money for salaries, not for

nuclear tests," chanted the unions as they progressed down the Boulevard Beaumarchais. "We are all Europeans," said

Jean-Paul Dondero, a techni-cian in a geriatric hospital, who was marching in a line of white coats. "There are not enough doctors and nurses to care for the elderly. The Europe we

want is not like this."
He added: "If Chirac want-

should sell public buildings." As the traffic jams built up, several onlookers scoffed at the public service workers, considered by many in France as other European countries. privileged employees with jobs for life.

"It is disgusting, all of this," said Robert Marcol, a taxi driver who complained it had taken him one hour to drive just a mile. "These are the most privileged people in France - they have job security, unlike any of us. Why should they have a pay rise every year? These are just the Socialists trying to bring down Chirac, but it is 10 years of their socialism which has left our coffers empty. We need Mrs

Thatcher.' A waiter serving tourists who were trying to enjoy the capital's Indian summer agreed. "Why

years. These civil servants - they sit on their arses all day and do nothing but complain." But the strikers knew yesterday that they had opinion polls on their side. A steel band lent the demonstration a carnival at-

The discordant sounds of a trade union chant, sung to the tunes of Edith Piaf, pealed over the rooftops. "It seems that we earn too much. It seems that we are not wanted," the singer jibed, and the marchers yelped with delight.

The question on everybody's mind yesterday was what Mr Chirac would do next, now he had dared to take on the "vertebral column" of the French workforce, as Libération newspaper put it yesterday.

It was certainly a column of angry malcontents, whose warnings the President of five

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French malaise bodes ill for Europe In just five months, the climate of hope that accompanied Jacques Chirac's presidential election victory bas given way to one of sombre disappointment. The consequences for

France, and for Europe as a

whole, could be severe indeed. Yesterday's strikes look like a routine conflict over the pay packets of state employees. But what is at stake is nothing less than the future shape and direction of the European Union.

Many pitfalls lie in the way of the EU's planned launch of n single currency in 1999, but few would be more devastating than the failure of the French government's economic programme. Without French par-ticipation, it is unlikely there will ever be a single currency and the entire post-war project of evercloser European political and economic integration would be thrown into question.

The government must wipe out the 68bn franc (£8.9bn) welfare-system deficit - the gap between benefits and contributions - and set strict limits on other forms of public expenditure to meet the Maastricht targets. The trade unions are warning that they will resist attempts to cut the budget deficit

This is no ordinary strike, Tony Barber own making notably the housing affair and the outcry over the explains. It has implications for us all

and Mr Juppé is that, whichever way they turn, nothing but trouble seems to lie ahead. If they make concessions to the unions, the foreign exchange markets are certain to wallop the franc and there would be little faith in France's ability to qualify for monetary union in 1999, at least without some creative book-keeping.

But if the government pre-vails over the unions and achieves its deficit reduction targets, then it will have carried out its programme at the expense of an unemployment rate at or near the current level of 11.4 per cent. The question vexing the markets is whether Mr Chirac is willing to pay that price for monetary union, particularly since he won election partly on a promise to make unemploy-

ment his top priority.
It is possible to feel sympathy for Mr Chirac, since he in-herited both the Maastricht deadline of 1999 and the high unemployment rate from Prançois Mitterrand, his Socialist predecessor. His economic policy options were in at their members' expense. many ways limited from the dilemma for Mr Chirac moment he took office. many ways limited from the

French, however, the problem is that he sang quite a different tune during his election campaign to that which he is singing now. In April and May, seeking to exploit widespread disen-chantment with Mr Mitterrand and 14 years of socialism, he talked not only of cutting unemployment but of lowering taxes, raising wages, improving public services and healing the

time of his election. This makes Mr Chirac the

victim of the steepest fall in a president's popularity rating since the Fifth Republic's hirth in 1958. Mr Juppe has fared no better and, as a result of the scandal over his housing arrangements in Paris, is suffering the added humiliation of having his honesty brought into question. Some of the government's

fractures in French society. Even to many who voted for him, it seems that Mr Chirac has reneged on his pledges. A survey two weeks ago indicated that only 33 per cent of the people were satisfied with his policies, down from 59 per cent at the

resumption of nuclear weaps tests. The dismissal of Alain In the view of millions of Madelin as finance minister, after only three months in the job, enhanced the impression of what Le Monde yesterday called "a lack of professionalism" in the government. It is nevertheless startling

that the president and his camp should be in such trouble so soon. The Gaullists and their centre-right allies control practically every important power centre in France, from the presidency and both chambers of parliament, to the Paris city hall and most regional administrations. With no national elections until 1998, the Chirac-Juppé team is theoretically in a stronger position than most EU governments to pursue tough, coherent policies. Instead, they seem to have wandered into a relentlessly expanding crisis.

Predictably, the word is going around Paris that Mr Juppé's days are numbered. The scapegoating and sacrifice of prime ministers is a well-established Fifth Republic ceremony, but whether it will do much to rescue Mr Chirac's policies on Europe and the problems appear to be of its economy is another matter.

TORIES IN BLACKROOL

Portillo lays claim to mantle of the right

COLIN BROWN and PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

Michael Portillo reasserted his claim to be the darling of the Tory right yesterday with a barnstorming address that flew in the face of warnings by the former Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, not to rail against false ogres in Europe.

Staking his claim to the future leadership of the party yesterday with a highly Euro-sceptic attack on Britain's European partners for proposing a com-mon defence policy, the speech produced the longest standing

ovation of the day.

Mr Portillo, Secretary of
State for Defence, raised the spectre of the European Commission seeking to harmonise or "even metricate" uniforms and cap hadges in a European common defence force.

He also passionately de-fended the SAS and lamhasted the condemnation by the European Court of Human Rights of the Gibraltar killings. He said the Tories sent a clear message to the European Court: "Don't

give comfort to terrorists." His tirade had the hall clapping and stamping its feet for more and eclipsed the appeal of John Redwood, the firmer right-wing challenger for the leadership. "That is bad for Redwood - they love him," said one Euro-sceptic Tory official. There were hisses when Mr Portillo mentioned Brussels. "It would be absurd, as some of our partners are urging, to try to merge our defence co-operation into the European Community," he said.

Secretary, who also adopted a Euro-sceptical tone in the forcign affairs debate, promoted closer co-operation on defence with European partners, par-ticularly the French, when he was defence secretary.

Mr Portillo declared: "There are those in the Labour Party and across Europe sleep walking their way along the dreamy road to a European superstate. We will not allow Brussels to control our defence policy. With a Conservative government Britain will not join a sin-

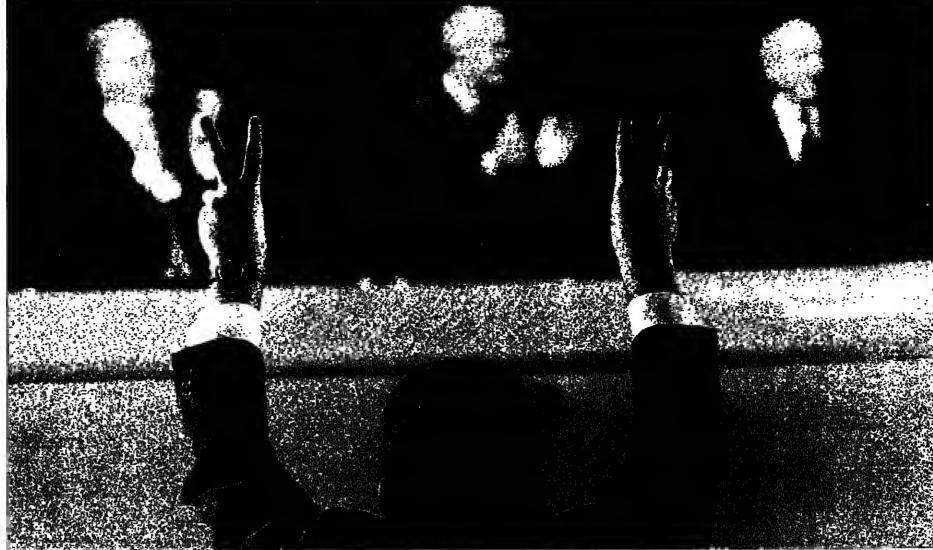
gle European Army."

But there is little threat of a common defence policy - pro-posed by Jacques Delors, the past president of the European Commission - being pushed by the French and the Germans for the Inter-Governmental Conference next year.

Britain has led pressure for the Western European Union
-formed in 1948 - to be the focus for European defence, outside the European Union.

Mr Rifkind pledged that any further erosion of British sovereignty would be judged on whether there would be such benefit to the prosperity, to the security, or to the quality of life of the British people'

Labour's readiness to go along with what the majority of other countries wanted was the "new fault line in British politics" he said. After announcing the objective of a new Atlantic Community, Mr Rifkind told reporters that while France re mained "protectionist", he had secured significant allies among other member states.



Point of order: A delegate signals his support for the platform during speeches at the Tory conference in Blackpool yesterday

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gualanteed again benefit as 240,000 and a term of 22 years on the execution policy. A first charge over your property will be required as security. For loans other than repayment loans, a suitable endowment policy. PEP or pension plan will also be required. A suitable level term assurance policy will also be required for PEP or pension plan mortgages. An indemnity policy, for which you will need to pay an arrangement fee, will be required where the mortgage exceeds the Society's normal maximum percentage advance of 75%, it the mortgage is either redeemed (in full or in port) or transferred to another scheme before 1.10.99, (or before 1.10.2000 for mortgages with an interest rate of 4.99%), a fee equivalent to 6 months' interest at the rate payable at the time of repayment will be charged. All martgages are subject to status, valuation and a minimum age of 18. A written quotation is available on request from any branch or from Woolwich Building Society, Dept LS, Corporate HO, Wasting Street, Bestleyheath, Kent DA6 7RR. The Woolwich Building Society represents anly the Woolwich Marketing Group, which is regulated by the vestment Authority for life assurance and unit trust but

Sceptics are triumphant as the tide turns against Brussels voices on the fringe. The strongest was that of Andrew Rowe, the old "wet" MP for Mid Southend East and one of the guments of the Euro-sceptics.

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Euro-sceptics paraded at conference fringe meetings yes-terday in a mood of barely concealed triumph at the way they believe John Major and the Cabinet are marching to the beat of the sceptic drum,

The Conservative Party had put its divisions over Europe be-hind it, Norman Lamont, the former chancellor, said: "We are all Euro-sceptics now."

Along with Lord Tebbit, he elcomed the Prime Minister's assurance that if Europe moved towards federalism a Tory Britain would not go with it. "I don't think there is any doubt that the Conservative Party has shifted decisively in the Euro-sceptic di-rection," Mr Lamont said.

original sceptic voices, said the Government was changing its stance in the right direction -"towards public opinion".

However, there were warnings about the pressure the Government would face from other European Union states at next year's Inter-Governmental Conference over monetary Tory leadership challenger, said union and common foreign and defence policies.

Mr Lamont urged ministers to resist the temptation to "cobhie together" some form of words to cover Britain's posithat ambiguity is fatal. It would mean one thing to the House of Commons and another to European institutions."

Lord Tebbit put the Government's shift down to events

The Euro-fanatics who are running Europe are making such a mess of it.

The strident calls of last year for a pledge not to join a single currency were replaced by a degree of relish at the difficulties confronting the project. John Redwood, the defeated

even the German people were

terrified of the "monetary mon-

ster" and were huying Swiss

francs. France, already suffer-

was being asked to suffer more tion. "We have found to our cost in the name of convergence. "The wags in the foreign ex-change markets are right again. The best name for the new cur-

rency is the dodo," he said. John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, was

ing 12 per cent unemployment, in the Labour Party. "In the same way, there are probably Labour MPs who

would be happier on our side, because they are worried about giving up our democracy to the EU. We need to shake up the party system, because the par-

Kent. He said the EU needed to

be greatly overhauled after 40

years, but added; "I am not

scared of pooling our sover-

eignty in order to make us part

Addressing a meeting or-

ganised by Conservative Youth

Against a Federal Europe, Sir

Teddy accepted Alan Howarth's

view that there were around 40

Tory MPs who would be happier

of a very successful viable future.

Veneer of consensus covers the European conundrum

Europe has nearly destroyed the Major administration. Could it end up saving it? After a day of speechifying and fringe meeting agitation on the future of the EU, the party feels more united than last year, and united on terms summed up in the title of a lunchtime speech by Norman Lamont: "We are all Euro-

The argument is declared over, at least in the party. Af-ter John Major's leadership challenge, the hard-liners aren't going to push for more con-cessions from him. But most pro-Maastricht and pro-single currency Tories have been intimidated or argued into silence.

Only the indomitable Edwina Currie won't shut up; she has left it late, but she is in danger

of becoming admirable.

Malcolm Rifkind and
Michael Portillo were, though, surer guides to the Tary mood. They both made fervently anti-Brussels points in their speeches, with the Foreign Secretary deriding the notion of "ever closer union" to which the Prime Minister had, after all, committed himself when he signed the Maastricht Treaty.

As for Portillo ... grown newspapermen were slack-jawed and white-faced at the sheer gung-ho relish with which he took on the factual world and defeated it with overwhelming verbal force. "We taught the Bosnian Serb generals that the slaughter of civilians will not go



unpunished." Er, up to a point, and rather late. Around the world, three letters send a chill down the spine of the enemy: SAS. And those letters spell out one clear message: don't mess with Britain."

And so on. After 20 minutes nr so of this, nne could only re-act to his assertion that "war is messy, brutal and violent" by reflecting that, yes, it was; but no more so than Portilln on riproaring conference form.

John Major seemed to be enjoying it about as much as a dose of dysentery. But Portillo, after wohhling during the summer leadership contest, is back in favour with the party. He is the Prodigal Minister.

This matters for the country. not just the Tory party, be-cause ferocious attacks on Labour's federal tendencies are so clearly going to be a central theme in the election. Once party battle has been joined, Europe will become a unifying thing for most Tories, rather than a dividing thing. "Brussels" seems to stand for everything party workers are viscerally

against. It is becoming as important a Conservative enemy as socialism used to he. And the British argument is

Labour conference last week the missing words in every relevant speech were "monetary union". The single currency had simply disappeared. Tony Blair believes that monetary union will happen, if it does, late and will be driven by economic convergence and market interests, rather than the Maastricht timetable. Indeed, he thinks the political timetable is the problem. Anti-Maastricht Tories have some reason to

feel self-satisfied.
None of which means that they have a convincing answer to the European conundrum. A small minority want to leave the EU. A smaller minority still want full federalism. But most are stuck uneasily between, anxious about the Franco-German agenda, short of clear al-ternatives. There is "variable geometry" and other unsatisfactory verbiage.

But what was missing again yesterday was any sign of new thinking about what end-point would be good for the country and for Europe.

Rifkind's speech assumed that European policy was es-sentially about reacting to other people's proposals: "In each case, we will decide whether there would be such benefit ... that it would justify the loss of favour.

national control." Sensible, no doubt; but uncomfortably close to being a declaration in favour of good things, and against bad moving their way. Even at the

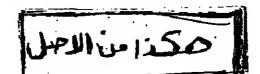
things.
Where Rifkind was interesting was in his sketchy proposal for a free trade area linking the EU and North America. This is not new and would have to be argued slowly through the EU. But if it eventually succeeded, senior Tories point out that it would raise interesting questions about harmonisation and all the other "baggage" of the Single European Act. It could, in other words, provide a reverse gear for European integration. Watch that idea.

It is perhaps over-ambitious to expect a party in government, still trying to close destructive splits, to come up with a blueprint either for a different kind of Union or for some looser confederation. That may be the great task of the Tories in opposition. Meanwhile, they will be doing their best to avoid that fate by attacking Labour as unpatriotic and slavish adherents of the hureaucratic socialist empire in Brussels.

This may be unfair, untrue, short-termist and an avoidance of the hard questions. But the Conservatives are starting to sound almost consensual in their Euro-scepticism. They have convinced themselves that nn this issue, if no other, the tide of history is flowing in their

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TORIES IN BLACKPOOL

BBC hits back at Mawhinney over bias allegation

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

The BBC was last night engaged in a bitter battle with the Tory leadership over allegations of political bias against the Today programme by Brian Mawhin-

ney, the party chairman.
Dr Mawhinney's attack oo the flagship current affairs radio programme was applauded by Tory representatives at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool but rejected by the BBC. "The *Today* programme has no political philosophy other than that of impartiality," said a BBC spokesman.

In a hard-hitting speech marking a sharp contrast to his predecessor Jeremy Hanley, Dr Mawhinney claimed the programme had given air-time to calls for an £8bn increase in public expenditure in one week.

The public spending demands allegedly made on the Today pro-

gramme in the week beginning

25 September add up to at least

£7.92bn and would require an

extra 5 per cent on the basic

rate of income tax, the Con-

servative Research Department

But a "Costing the Today Pro-

gramme" breakdown amounts

to little more than a compila-

tion of contributions from

programme guests and as-

claimed yesterday.

How the figures were worked out

Accusing the BBC of bowing to pressure groups, Dr Mawhinney said: "Let me remind the BBC - this government does not govern because it has won some broadcasting award, it has a mandate. The *Today* pro-gramme only has a licence."

The programme had a political philosophy, he said. "It believes strongly that there is no problem which cannot be solved by more public spending. And it is always happy to provide a platform for anyone with a simllar philosophy to make their pitch. Their hands in your pocket is its motto "

as the election approaches.

The party chairman also attacked Mr Blair, the shadow The Tory party's media mon-itoring unit had studied the programme during September Home Secretary Jack Straw and "loony left" councils for givand found spending proposals which would add up to £412bn over a year. "That amounts to £62 per working person per working day – national banking grants to fringe groups. He ridiculed Labour-controlled Camden council for giving a grant to the local Hopscotch

Friends of the Earth, for ex-

ample, called for policies to re-duce traffic. In the absence of

figures, the CRD calculated the

cost of a 5 per cent increase in transport spending – or an ex-tra £176.5m – "the very least

needed to make any substance out of FoE's demands." in the

case of a Today report on un-

derfunding the Crown Prosecu-

tion Service, the CRD appear to

have simply plucked a 5 per cent

Asian Women's Group. It caused guffaws among the Tory faithful, but Frank Dobson, a shadow cabinet minister whose constituency covers the group, demanded an apology. He said the club was also funded by the Home Office and the

ruptcy," Dr Mawhinney added.

He warned the BBC that the

unit would continue to monitor

programmes for bias in the run

the heels of a row at the Labour conference when Alistair Campbell, Tony Biair's press secretary, sent a fax to BBC

news editors urging them not to allow the OJ Simpson verdict

to overshadow the Labour leader's keynote speech on the evening news. Dr Mawhinney's

attack suggests the BBC could come under fire from both sides

The warning comes hard on

up to the general election.

Save the Children Fund. Dr Mawhinney lifted Tory supporters with a rousing call to arms, assuring them they were heading for victory. He also urged the public to protest about soft sentences in a foretaste of law-and-order meaincrease in the CPS's budget, sures to be anno costing £14.75m, out of the air. Home Secretary. sures to be announced by the



The thinker: Michael Heseltine listening to the debate yesterday Photograph: Brian Harris

The Tories' media hitman

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

Brian Mawhinney's well-briefed broadside against BBC Radio 4's Today programme yesterday was down to one man. Step forward the redoubtable Julian Lewis, media monitor extraordinaire.

Shortly before the Tory chairman's speech, Mr Lewis could be found hurrying towards the conference hall. As deputy head of research for the party, Mr Lewis carefully watches and listens for every bit of possible anti-

and one he developed at the Modia Monitoring Unit, which he helped run in the mid-Eighties. they had no money, Mr Lewis sued the distributors and newsis the BBC. In his eyes, it is prone to liberal teodencies, falls prey to socialist cant, and too easily turns oo the Government.

This one-man scourge of the Beeb is a short, softly spoken, baby-faced figure. Do not be fooled. When he spots an enemy, he goes for the jugular. His most recent crusade has been against the satirical magazine, Scallywag. His methods were frighteningly successful: it attacked him; the editors boasted

"sue us if you dare", and said agents instead. The magazine has all but disappeared. Mr Lewis is keen to secure a

parliamentary seat and there was talk his days at Central Office were numbered. But Labour's love affair with the upper echelons of the BBC and the heavy handed tactics of its press spokesman, Alistair Campbell, in demanding that Tony Blair be given priority over the OJ ver-dict, mean Mr Lewis's skills will

Yesterday at the conference

Metin ennouncements
-Move towards an Atlantic free trade area
-Rural housing to be excluded from extension to

Right to Buy Combined Navy-Army-RAF strikeforce to be formed • Ministerial committee on children at risk • Initiative to get more children involved in the arts

Guotes of the day

"Where Palmerston would have sent a gunboat, Robin Cook would sand Rainbow Warnor." Malcoim Ritidad
"Contrary to what some of you may think, this is not - officially - an opposition party." Brian Maybinney about the Today programme
"Brussels. You knew (it mantion it." Michael Portillo, turning to Major Devil of the day







1 Europe: The Battle for Britain. Freedom Association
with seven formerly whipless rebels. Drew 300 people
2 European Foundation meeting entitled The Socialist
Betrayel of Europe. Lord Tebbit in lead role (drew 230)
3 Conservative 2000 - What Next? Debate with John
Redwood and Andrew Rowe, stand-in for Alan Howarth

The arty to be seen al Sightings institute of Directors' non-transferable invite, free drinks



Daily Mail chief Sir Devid English

Malcolm Rifking

Michael Dobbs man of the moment the performance which took the eye of the former Tory vice-chairman

whoever was responsible for the authorus malfunctioning so Mr Mawitinney was forced to communicate directly with the audience Today' debates

Technical pause halts the Tory fast forward to the future

It must be something to do with the approaching Millennium. After last week's celebration of newness - new Labour, new Britain, new suits - the Torics appear similarly hung up on what comes next. No less, according to the conference logo, a firework-shaped Union Jack exploding across Blackpool's Winter Gardens, than our nation's future.

a side room off the conference now Tate & Lyle has taken its hall, for instance, Tory Central cheque elsewhere.



Office fund-raisers were com-

Smartie initiative. This involved handing out tubes of the sweets with a leaflet, which read: "Eat the sweeties one by one/And when the tasty job is done/Fill the carton with 20ps/Then come return it to us please." Donors will be comforted to know none of their money was wasted emcopy-writer, then.

Moreover, after Labour's embrace of technology, the Tories who was keenest to look into the are also easing their juggernaut future. It was his department

in blue gowns have been hand- Above it bloomed the centreing out leaflets to delegates explaining how to switch in to the web. In a party boasting memhership with an average age of 60, however, an invitation to surf the net is unlikely to be taken up as most delegates look as though they would thrown by ploying Seamus Heaney as a the pre-record facility on their

But it was Brian Mawhinney

piece of Mawhinney's vision three giant video screens. Onto the middle screen was projected the subject under debate, and on the outer two were huge images of speakers. As, through the first morning, one delegate merged into another, you wondered why they had gone to so

much technological trouble. But that was before Brian point coming up with all the toys

These were ideas like the highway. Swatteams of hlondes a monolith in blue velvet. first. Mawhinney is so forwardthinking a party chairman, he is already living in a time when political speeches take their lead from pop videos. Before he appeared on stage, the lights dimmed and up on the screens spun an artfully directed promo film contrasting the endless winter of the last Labour government with the long, lan--village-cricket-matches sum- song which sound-tracked it.

Mawhinney himself spoke. No mer of Britain under the Ibries. And when he spoke - veeron to the information super- that produced the hi-tech stage, if you can't play with them ing from assaults on the Today

programme to assaults on the Labour front bench - his themes flashed up overhead. "Not fit to govern" was his favourite, the delegates picking it up as he pointed to the words above him like a pantomime dame when the sing-along script is wheeled on stage. He wrapped up by referring back to his home movie. Or, more parguorous parsons-umpiring ticularly, to the Joe Cocker

> "We'll lift you up where you belong," he climaxed. Tony Blair assembled a team

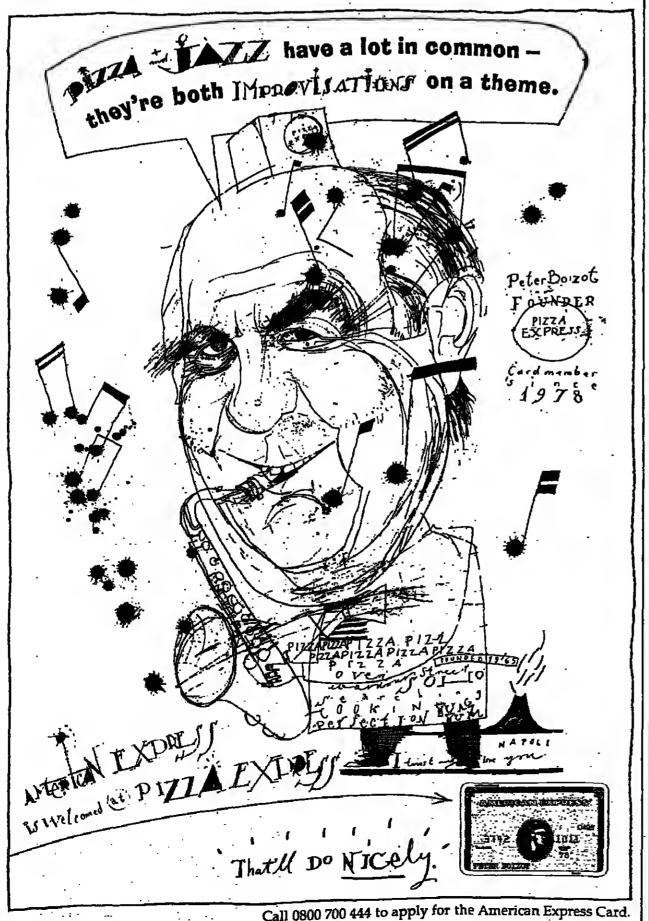
of ten to write his speech last week. He could have saved his party a good deal of Tate & Lyle's money if only he had realised all he had to do for a sound-bite was tune in to Virgin Radio.

Mr Mawhinney's, though, was a technical tour de force loud, aggressive and flashy. The only black spot was that it started 20 minutes late, due to a technical hitch. Britain's future, it seems, can only start once someone has put the video

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Concerts under threat in war over stars

DAVID LISTER Arts Correspondent

The heads of Britain's two best known concert halls were locked in a vitriolic row yesterday as the Royal Festival Hall was accused of using taxpayers' money to poach stars from the Royal Albert Hall.

Patrick Deuchar, chief exec-utive of the Royal Albert Hall, said that the South Bank Centre, which runs the Royal Festival Hall, was using public subsidy to lure stars like Shirley

They could afford to offer promoters cheaper rates to hire their hall, he said, because they used public money to do so. But, he added, this money was given by the Government to put on classical music and new and experimental work, not big-name commercial artists.

Many of these have been pop and rock stars. Among artists who have appeared recently at the Royal Festival Hall and used to appear at the Royal Albert Hall, are: Art Garfunkel, Elvis Costello, BB King, Joe







ceives no public subsidy, and it is boping to win lottery money for a complete refurbishment and redevelopment which would also be partly funded by box office receipts. Mr Deuchar

poaching of artists could harm

While Eric Clapton, who plays 12 nights each year at the Royal Albert Hall, is so attached

every other pop and rock star who plays the Hall is open to persuasion. It is highly unusual for the head of one major concert hall to attack another publicly in this way, but it is a sign of the increasing competi-

tion among venues in London.
The South Bank Centre receives a £13.3m Arts Council grant. The general director of the South Bank Centre, Nicholas Snowman, said last night: "The Royal Festival Hall has always been in demand by a wide range of performers. In the past, Jimi Hendrix, David Bowie, Pink Floyd, the Pet Shop Boys and Frank Sinatra

shop Boys and Frank Sinatra have played there.
"The Royal Festival Hall is let commercially and will continue to be a major international flagship for the arts, providing first class concerts for every-

An Arts Council spokes-woman said: "We are here to see that some of the highest quality art is put on at the enues who receive our money. But when we give the grant we are not specific about what they can spend the money on."



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House 'elitist and wasteful' DAVID LISTER An astonishing attack on waste and restrictive practices at the Royal Opera House and other

Royal Opera

national companies was made yesterday by the leading classical music promoter, Raymond

Guhbay,
Mr Gubbay, one of the most respected figures in the field, worked a few years ago with the Royal Opera House on a coproduction of Turandot.

would be mounting a £1m arena opera production of La Bohème next February with the Royal Albert Hall, He wanted to put it on there, he said, because places like the Royal Opera House and London Colseum, home of the English National Opera, were elitist and used their money badly. The rarity of such an attack

by an arts practitioner was matched by the extreme nature

pecome far too elitist. People go there to be seen, for the interval drinks and for meals in the restaurants round the corner. "In addition, there are meth-

ods of doing things and restrictive practices which don't bear scrutiny at both the Royal Opera House and the Coliseum. Stage hands are getting overtime paid all the time.

"But the nature of theatre work is that you don't work a

nine-to-five day. The Royal Opera House are definitely overpaying their backstage staff. Those guys get in some cases more than the performers. I know for example that when something is wanted from the props department two people ave to go and they don't work again that day because they have left the theatre. The lottery award of £52m to the Royal Opera House was obscene. reduction of *Turandot*. There is a need for proper Yesterday he announced he scrutiny and accountability as it might well be wasting a substantial amount of money a

> Mr Gubbay said the Royal Shakespeare Company was employing "a bunch of actors, none of whom earn more than £500 a week. Why is the company get-ting all that money? There just don't seem to be the same controls and scrutiny that there is in the commercial sector."

The attack was added to by of the language used.

Mr Gubbay said: "The top price at La Bohème will be said that a survey of his cus-£37, compared to over £100 at tomers had shown they wanted the Royal Opera House. It has opera in comfortable surroundings at reasonable prices.

He said: "There's a strata of society who desperately want to come and enjoy opera but the atmosphere at our opera houses is icy and dismissive.

A spokeswoman for the Royal Opera House said the practices complained of were no longer in existence. "We have the most efficient and cost effective personnel operation in

Labour sets out defence strategy

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

Britain's defence industry, which has halved in size since 1980, is facing its "greatest challenge ever", according to a Labour Party report published yesterday.

Labour reaffirmed its commitment to a fundamental review of defence priorities and a strategy for preserving the British defence industry or converting it to civilian production without sacrificing jobs, if it wins the next election.

"The defence industrial base is a strategic national interest in both defence and economic terms," said Dr David Clark, the shadow defence secretary, launching Strategy for a Secure Future, the party's manifesto for the defence industry. "It is a preserve of high-tech innovation which Britain cannot afford to lose. Decline of Britain's capability in this field can and must be averted," he added.

Labour's review will examine four "core strategic areas": Nato and the enlargement of the Atlantic alliance; the strengthening of European defence structures; the role of the UN in international peacekeeping; and international security agreements, including the control of weapons proliferation. Labour advocates enhancing the role of the UN's peace-keeping operation and the adoption of a UN military doctrine - suggesting a perma-

nent UN peace-keeping force. The report says British defence expenditure has fallen by



Clark: Commitment

28 per cent since its peak in the mid-1980s - the height of the Cold War. But falling expendi-ture has coincided with increased costs as equipment gets

more sophisticated The report says Britain's industrial defence workforce has halved since 1980, from 405,000 directly employed and 740,000 overall to 210,000 and 395,000 respectively.

A strong defence industrial base is vital to the national interest, the report says, as well as being a high-technology preserve "we cannot afford to lose in economic terms".

The report acknowledges the Tory reforms in defence procurement which, it says, ended "the previously rather cosy relationship between MoD and its suppliers". But it criticises the failure of the Government to realise the "peace dividend" expected to materialise at the end of the Cold War.

r stan, Tourists visit seaside focus of Disney Pocahontas legend



Walt Disney has brought the tourists to Florida, France and Tokyo - now it is doing the same for Gravesend, where pilgrims are searching for the truth about Pocahontas.

St George's Church, where the Indian princess was huried in 1617, has experienced a surge of visitors since the US launch of Disney's animated film, Pocahontas in June.

The hlockbuster crosses the Atlantic this week and as Walt Disney has pledge £9,000 to il-Inminate the church tower and Pocahontas's statue, the town is preparing for a further influx of

Disney has turned the Pocahontas legend into a romantic story of a beautiful Indian maiden who saves the life of handsome explorer John Smith and embarks on a love affair that crosses races and cultures.

In reality, though Pocahontas did save Smith from a ceremonial execution, she married someooe else and was later kidnapped and taken to England where she became one of the early ethnic celebrities. She

One visitor, Dr Gerald Taiaiake Alfred, 31, from Kahnawake Indian reserve in Canada, was in search of what he called 'real history'.

"I was disgusted by the movie so I figured I should come here and see how they presented the subject. The movie is very offensive and racist," said Dr Alfred, a Mohawk Indian who lectures in political science at Montreal's University of Con-

As delighted with the memorial as he was disgusted with Disney, Dr Alfred cootinued: "I came here to see exactly where she is buried. The presentation here seems pretty objective. It is a simple monument which is not romanticised or distorted.

"If people come and see an where she lived her life it should make them ask questions about why she died here. She was a victim of the times. You can take it for granted she wasn't here by

Dr Alfred welcomed the floodlighting. "It is a good idea if it brings people here to ask



Disney's cartoon image of Pocahontas and, right, her statue at Graves

legacy of the treatment of Indian people, not perpetuate

the mythology," he said. Another of yesterday's visitors, Carl Lawton, 50, from Los Angeles said: "Pocahontas symbolises that there should be peace and harmony between all races." He too predicted a tourist influx. "Graveseod is too small a town to withstand It's going to get nuts."



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Public school heads seek funding for more places

DOOR HUDDY Education Editor

Public schools are talking to both the Conservative and Labour parties about funding more places in private schools, a leading public school head said yesterday.

Labour should subsidise local authority places for less wealthy pupils in independent schools, Hugh Wright, new chairman of the Headmasters' meeting in Dublin.

Labour sources indicated last

night that the party was coo-sidering councils buying independent school places for pupils with special oceds and aptitude, but not choseo by academic

Mr Wright urged the Government to expand the assisted. places scheme, which helps hright pupils from poor homes to attend private schools, or to hring in some other scheme of governmeot-backed scholarships. Independent school representatives are discussing an expansion of the 30,000-place scheme with Downing Street, which hopes the policy will em-phasise the Conservatives' differences with Labour.

Labour has said it will abolish the scheme, which costs £110m a year, and use the moncy to fund smaller class sizes. But Mr Wright said: "New Labour is looking at indepeodent schools in a new way."

In a speech designed to woo politicians of all parties. Mr Wright, head of King Edward's School in Birmingham, told 240 conference members: "I say to politicians of all parties that you cannot afford to be without us. The independent sector has 7 per cent of all pupils, more at 16-plus where places are most

costly, and if it were not there, the Department for Education and Employment's budget would have to increase by at least £1bn."

He made it clear that public schools were prepared to open their facilities to the community as Labour has demanded Our facilities can be had costeffectively and for some pupils in every locality a place bought in our schools by the local education authority would save cialist talent to be developed."

Mr Wright said more pupils should have access to independent schools, not necessarily through the assisted places scheme. He said it would oot be as expensive as it sounded.

He argued that the cost to the Treasury of each pupil's educatioo was little more than if they were in state schools, particularly in the sixth form.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said the party was interested in Mr Wright's offer to open up pri-vate school facilities but he added: "While we would be happy to discuss any proposals which the Headmasters' Conference may have, we are not in favour of an alternative to the assisted places scheme."

Public school heads should continue to give pupils a strong moral lead, said Roy Chapman, head of Malvern College, despite the fact that some had fallen helow those standards since his similar call at last year's conference. Peter Hobsoo, head of Charterhouse, resigned recently after meetings

with an escort girl. Mr Chapman said: "I doo't believe teachers should claim to be unique in facing up to the pressure put on people in all walks of hise."

Comments for ie lais fats to Spain.



Magazine 'filth' under attack

they should be consigned to the lop shelf, the boss of a leading

model agency said yesterday. Laraine Ashton, managing director of IMG Models, said that titles such as Cosmopolitan, Company and Marie Claire had degenerated into "filth".

And she warned that she would be urging her models to think twice before consenting to pose for the magazines.

Ms Ashton said: "We don't oeed to read 'How to have 15 orgasms' on the front cover of these magazines. It isn't edu-cation, it's filth. They belong on the top shelf. It isn't right to say that Casmo has been doing it for

so long that it is acceptable." The 49-year-old agency chief, who was a top model in the Sixties, preserved her most with ering criticism for a new maga-

zine, Dazed and Confused. She tuld London's Evening Standard: "I object to cheapness. Dazed and Confused lives up to its name, it is rubbish and I hope it goes out of business." Ms Ashton added: "I be- order to look better."

"To have a girl and a boy in a state of undress simulating sex is gruesome, as is driving past a bus stop and seeing a couple licking ice-cream off each other. A nude scene in the shower would be okay but there has to be a line drawn somewhere."

Her outburst provoked an angry response from magazine publishing sources who dismissed it as an attempt to raise the profile of the agency.

A spokeswoman for the National Magazine Company, which publishes Cosmopolitan and Company, refused to

Rankin Waddell, publisher of Dazed and Confused, defended his current issue, which depicts a topless model ficking a bloody axe. "It's misrepresentation. We are not a women's fashioo magazine but a style magazine such as The Face or ID. Our shots are all concept shots based around women's issues. Women shouldn't cut themselves up i

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Service chiefs tell judges gay ban must stay

STEPHEN WARD Legal Affairs Correspondent

All the service chiefs still believe there is a substantial risk that lifting the ban on gays in the armed forces would damage their efficiency, the Court of Appeal heard yesterday.

The Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, and two other Court of Appeal judges are hearing the latest stage of an attempt by four former servicemen and women to overturn the ban. On Monday the court was told by David Pannick QC, representing the four, that the ban was irrational.

was uranonal.

But yesterday Stephen Richards, for the Ministry of Defence, quoted from an affidavit by the Air Chief Marshal, Sir John Willis, on hehalf of all the services, which said: "A high state of discipline and morale is essential to the fighting efficiency of the services. To allow those of a homosexual orientation in the armed services would be a disruptive influence on the fabric of service life and

discipline.

"The services have a duty of care for the welfare and morale of their young members. To expose them to potentially disruptive and disturbing

influences would be to fail in that duty. The nature of armed forces life requires its members to live to close proximity with others in single-sex accommodation, with little privacy and at times under great stress and physically in close quarters with collection.

It was necessary to have "absolute trust and confidence between and within all ranks". Mr Richards told the court it was the public duty of the services to provide an efficient and effective fighting force.

Britain is almost alone

Britain is almost alone among Western countries in keeping a ban on gays in its forces. But Mr Richards said other countries who had admitted gays had only done so recently, so it was not possible to say the ban had suddenly become irrational.

He said that based on the experience of senior officers "it is not possible to retain even homosexuals who claim to be in serious relationships".

The ban had been repeated-

ly supported by Parliament, he said, and was lawful. Moving on to the argument

by the four ex-service personoel that the ban breached the European Unioo's equal treatment directive, Mr Richards

influences would be to fail in said this did oot apply to peothat duty. The nature of armed forces life requires its members sexuality but only to equal ireatment between geoders.

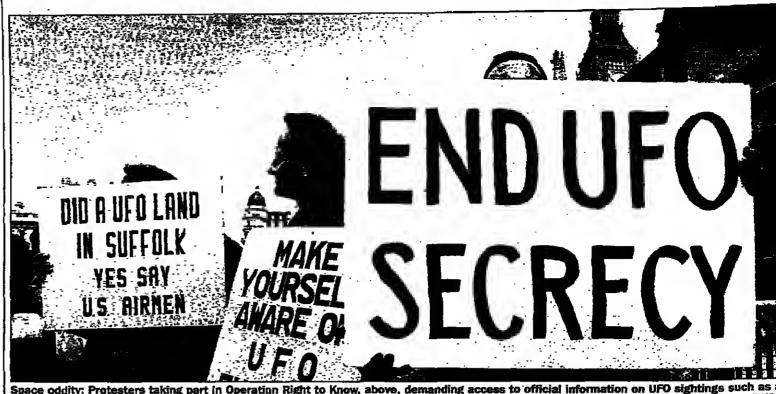
The case was rejected by the High Court in June, although one of the judges. Lord Justice Simon Brown, said it was with the court decided it could not overturn the ban. "The tide of history is against the Ministry of Defence. Prejudices are breaking down - old barriers are being removed," he said in his judgment. He doubted that the ban could survive much longer.

The MoD subsequently commissioned a review of the evidence, and is looking at the operation of other armed forces that do not ban gays. MPs are due to reconsider the policy next year. The four have said they will take their case to the House of Lords if they are turned down by the Court of Appeal.

The four are a former Navy lieutenant commander, Duncan Lustig-Prean, 36: a former RAF sergeant, Graeme Grady, 32: a former RAF nurse, Jeanette Smith, 28, from Edinburgh; and a former navy weapons engineer, John Beckett, 25. All had civilian partners when they discharged, and all had good service records.

The case continues today.

Alien visions give rise to earthly clamour



Space oddity: Protesters taking part in Operation Right to Know, above, demanding access to official information on UFO sightings such as an alleged UFO photographed over Warrington in 1978, below right, and a string of flying saucers from 1966, below left Photograph: Glynn Griffiths





UFO protest: MoD asked for 'truth' on sightings

LOUISE JURY

It was all a question of commonsense reasoning, they said. The Ministry of Defence knew a lot more about unidentified flying objects (UFOs) than it was publishy prepared to admit

publicly prepared to admit.

"The earth is in the midst of something non-human," said John Holman, UK co-ordinator of the campaign to end UFO secrecy. "It's becoming more and more documented.

They're oot hallucinations, they're not all mis-identifications. I am as sceptical as the next person, but when I see wideo tapes and I don't know what they are not balloons and they are not aircraft

- I want to know."

The point seemed perfectly reasonable. The Government has files. It has people in its Scoretariat Air Staff assessing whether flying flashing lights are the Russians or little green men from outer space. Operation Right To Know believes the public except the total.

public should be told.

As Mr Holman, a 46-year-old industrial designer from Ripon, North Yorksbire, and 20 supporters demonstrated outside Parliament yesterday, passers-by seemed only slightly puzzled

by the banners proclaiming: "UFOs Are Real, The Truth Is.

Closer questioning threw up matters more baffling, however, "Alien abductions have been going oo for a long time," coofided Busty Taylor, a driving instructor from Hampshire who also lecturers worldwide oo

crop circles.

"The aliens have been carrying out experiments. There's lots of evidence to prove that point now. I've seeo maoy IFOC."

Phillip Lambro, a 60-year-old Los Angeles composer, told a story of Christopher Colombus. When the great explorer was looking for money for a ship, he was told he would never get across the ocean and how the heasts and dragons would devour him, or if he survived, how he would fall off the end of the horizon. "We know oow that is

not the case," Mr Lambro said.
There have been 50 million reports worldwide of UFO sightings since 1954. Not all of them were fakes. Mr Lambro belongs to the Raclian Movement, which is preparing an embassy for extra-terrestrials for

when they land.
There was nothing to be

afraid of, said Andrea Corsick.
45, a Californian marketing manager. "I really don't think there's going to be things like

in the movies."

Mr Holman endeavoured to bring the debate back down to earth. "What we are after are the military reports and pilot reports which have been collected over 50 years," he said.

"We want to know what the military assessments are and what recommendations were made to government. We are not in a Cold War situation now, so why should UFOs be deemed a threat?"

Next year, Nick Pope, a serving civil servant who spent four years with the Ministry of Defence's UFO-watching secretariat, publishes a book. Open Skies, Closed Minds - official reaction to the UFO phenomenon. Mr Holmao and Operation Right To Know are excited at the prospect. They believe he is now on their side.

Michael Owen, 47, a passing American businessmao, took a leaflet from the group for a UFO-spotting friend back home. "As people of old looked for dragons, people of today look for what may or may not exist," he said.



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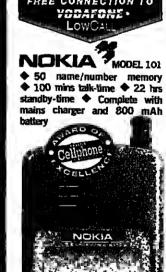


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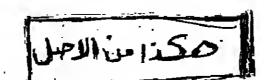
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BBC demands dominant role in digital TV

MARIANNE MACDONALD

The BBC yesterday began a campaign to persuade the Government to give it a dominant power hase in the brave new world of digital relevision, due to start taking over the screens in two years.

The corporation announced that it wants total control of one of the six oew digital frequen-cies - called "multiplexes" which will provide the technology to create some 20 extra television channels.

A wholly owned multiplex would give the BBC far more power than it would have under the Government's own proposals, made in a consultation paper io August, to award the multiplexes to commercial middlemen,

That scenario could force the end of last week.

Digital television - which the BBC to share a frequency with ITV or put the corporation in the humiliating position of having to oegotiate with its multiplex operator oo programming schedules

Yesterday Joho Birt, the



BBC's director-general, said: take advantage of the extra
The digital age will liberate the broadcasting time to offer view-BBC to provide a far wider range of services. But if we are to make as innovative a contribution to the digital age as we did in the radio and TV age, we need a multiplex for the BBC."

Mr Birt also urged the Department of National Heritage to draw up a timetable for transfer from the present analogue broadcasting system to the digital one, culminating in a switch-off date for analogue.

festivals such as the Proms con-

A good example of the op-

one and the same time from dif-

ferent parts of the UK."

We want a clear statement oo a timetable from govern-ment, a process which leaves the industry in no doubt," he said.

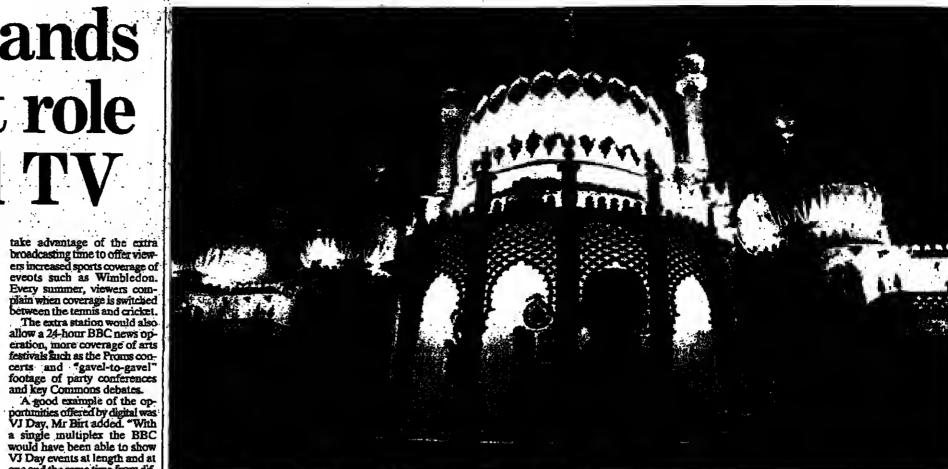
His comments came after the BBC submitted its response to the Government's consultation paper oo digital televi-sion, which asked for replies by

has been compared by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, to "moving from hlackand-white to colour TV" increases the number of channels which can be broadcast on terrestrial transmitters by compressing more information into the same space.

The system, which will open up television screens to home shopping, home banking and, eventually, video on demand, will start from 1997 although it could take 15 years to effect a complete changeover.

The existing stations - BBC1. BBC2, ITV and Channel 4 and the yet-to-be-launched Channel 5 - have all been guaranteed one of the extra channels created by the move to digital.

Mr Birt said the BBC would



Seeing the light: The Royal Pavilion in Brighton, named as winner in the 1995 Lighting Design Awards

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Photograph: Andew Hasson

Sting's adviser tells of shame over £6m losses

The rock star Sting's former accountant claimed in court yesterday that he hid huge business losses from the performer because he was too embarrassed to own up to them.

Keith Moore, 51, who is accused of stealing £6m from the actor and singer, said he had hoped that a series of risky investments - using Sting's mon-ey - would eventually become successful. The veotures included a chain of Australian curry houses and a project to turn Russian military planes ioto passenger aircraft.

Mr Moore said it was his joh to resolve, not give problems to Sting. He said their relationship

Sting. He said their relationship relied oo "mutual trust".

Mr Moore, who has denied using Sting's money for his own interests, insisted that once it became clear the money was lost he had been waiting for the right moment to tell his employed. ployer. He agreed with his de-fence counsel, Nicholas Purnell QC, that he planned to "sugar the pill" by telling him once it hecame clear how much he had saved the star in royalty oegotiations with his record company, A&M Records.

But before the \$24m saving emerged, he was confronted by Sting's lawyers. Sting has told

the court that a tip-off alerted him to the alleged fraud.

Mr Moore said he was ashamed about what had happened, but denied making any admission of dishonesty. "Absolutely oot," he said. There was no wrongdoing."
Mr Moore, of Fulham, south-

west London, denies 15 sample charges of stealing from Sting's personal bank accounts and from a company account between 1988 and 1992.

Cross examined by Ian Stern, for the prosecution, Mr Moore agreed that although he sent Sting regular statements about some of his bank accounts he oever provided informatioo about an account the singer had with the Bank of Scotland. The prosecution claims Sting

oever knew his money was being used to fund largely unsuccessful schemes and that it was illegally transferred from Coutts and Company to Gramelda Investments Ltd through the Bank of Scotland account.

Mr Moore denied telling a bank manager Gramelda was his company or that the money behind it was his. He says that while the former lead singer of the Police did oot know the details he had approved the "general principles" of the in-vestment strategy.

The trial continues today.

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See the light with Oki!

Property prices keep on falling

12 regions between the second and third quarters of this year and were lower than a year ago everywhere apart from Northern Ireland, according to figures published yesterday by the Halifax Building Society.

The province continued to bush the downward to the dow

buck the downward trend in the rest of the United Kingdom, recording another quarter-on-quarter increase in prices of 2.9 per cent, taking the yearly

rise to 3.1 per cent.
Regional general manager
John Donaldson said: "The stable political situation should
continue to underpin market continue to underpin market and business confidence generally. The factors which have contributed to lack of consumer confidence in the UK ... are not having the same market

The only other two regions to record price rises, both of 0.6 per cent, between the second and third quarters were the West Midlands and East Anglia 1 per cent and 2.6 per cent.

House prices fell in nine out of but prices were still down on a year ago. Regional prices were: North: average price £48,714. down 2.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter, 4.7 per cent year-oo-

Yorks/Humberside: £50,535, down 1.1 per cent and 3 per cent; North-west: £52,415, down 2.4 per cent and 5.3 per cent; East Midlands: £53,041, down 1.5 per cent and 3.8 per cent; West Midlands: £61,037, up 0.6 per cent, down 1.8 per ceot; East Anglia: £58,599, up 0.6 per cent, down 2.1 per cent; Wales: £50,283, down 0.3 per cent and 4.4 per cent; South-west: £61,323, down 0.2 per cent and 2.2 per cent; South-east: £77,299, down

Greater London: £77,613, down 1 per cent and 1.2 per cent; Northern Ireland: £45,250, up 2.9 per cent and 3.1 per cent; Scotland: £57,459, down 2.2 per cent and 1.4 per cent; United Kingdom: £61,499, down

0.6 per cent and 0.8 per cent;

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NHS set to be biggest private care provider

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

The National Health Service has become Britaio's third largest private hospital group - and will sooo become the biggest, according to an annual review of indepeodeot health care.

A dramatic turn-round in the use of NHS pay beds and the construction of ever growing oumbers of private patient wings - some using the Gov-ernment's private finance ini-tiative - saw the NHS take 16 per ceot of the acute private health care market last year. The figure represents a rise of almost 50 per ceot oo 1988, the year ao historic decline in NHS private patient activity saw it take a mere 11 per cent of private patient business.

By the likely time of the next election in 1997, the NHS will have 20 per ceot of the market, according to The Fitzhugh Directory. It is already the third largest private care provider af-ter BUPA Hospitals and the Freoch-owned group which in-cludes BMI. The decision of the French group to hive off its central London hospitals means the NHS is likely to be the biggest provider of private care in revenue terms in the current fi-

"The increase in market share is being brought about not only by the increasing oumber of private units being commisslooed by the trusts, but also by the increasing reveoues which these units are generating as their familiarisation with the market increases," according to William Fitzhugh, the directo-

ry's author. The top ten NHS earners all geocrated revenue of more than £2m with the Loodon hospitals, Guys, St Thomas's and the Royal Free, all raising more than £8m. In all, the NHS brought in more than £115m

Private work now accounts for more than 10 per cent of income at the heart transplant ceotre at Harefield Hospital, Grove, London W4 3QL 1240. Private work now accounts

Hampshire, the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford, and Wrightington Hospital, Wigan, which also specialises in orthopaedics, including hip replacements

Another seveo hospitals earned more than 5 per cent of their income privately including Oxford's Radcliffe Infirmary (5.6 per cent), St Mary's in London (5.8), the Christie in Manchester (7.3), Liverpool's Cardiothoracic Ceotre (7.6), the heart transplant centre at Papworth, Cambridgeshire (7.6), the Royal National Orthopaedic, London, (8.8) and the Royal Free (8.9). All saw increases of between 10 and 20 per cent in private patient reveoues last year. Less specialist hospitals with

significant private patient revenues include the Royal Surrey County in Guildford (4.9 per cent), Epsom Healthcare (4.7 per ceot) and the Frimley Park in Surrey (3.6).

Trusts are oow marketing their private patient services "aggressively" and "the unspoken fear" among independent private hospitals "is just how far the NHS will succeed in penetrating the market", according Mr Fitzhugh. "Could it really become the dominant force?"

Labour's policy oo private practice remains unclear, he says, and after reaching a 20 per cent share of the market in 1997, the arrival of a Lahour gov ernmeot would be likely to limit further capitalisation by the NHS on its "unique facilities and consultant relationships".

Independent hospital groups now appear resigned to slow but steady growth. "Not long ago. independent hospital operators used to talk of a large uotapped market which they felt existed just over the horizon ... Increasingly, many are oow accepting that this untapped mar-

The King's new clothes to be sold after 320 years



Holding on to the past: Anne Lury of Sotheby's with James II's elaborate wedding costume, to be sold in November

Arts Reporter

The hooeysuckle-embroidered wedding suit of James II, the younger soo of the executed Charles L is to be sold at auctioo oext mooth. The brown wool jacket and breeches will go under the hammer at Sotheby's on 2 November for an estimated £200,000 to £300,000.

The suit was made for James II when, as Duke of York, he married his second wife, the 14year-old Mary of Modena, in the hope of producing a male heir to the throne. Mary was a ferveot Catholic, and the wedding was opposed by the court

off the ageing Charles 11.

The pair must have made an odd couple – James had a slight, girlish figure, while Mary was described as "tall, and admirably shaped". Nevertheless, the pair were wed in 1673 at a ceremony hospotted by almost ceremony hoycotted by almost all the court except the loyal Sir Edward Carteret, to whom James gave the suit in gratitude. It passed to Sir Edward's widow and then to her sister Anne Durell, later wife of Matthew de Sausmarez of Guernsey. It has heen kept at the Sausmarez Manor oo Guernsey ever since.

Mary did give hirth to a son, James Stuart, who spent most of his life in exile, although Anne and Mary, James's daugh ters by his first marriage, both became Queen.

Asthmatics' victory in road closure bid

Families of seveo asthmatic children who live oear a smogriddeo Londoo road yesterday won the first round in their hid to have it closed to traffic on days with poor quality air.

Mr Justice Popplewell, in the High Court, granted them leave to bring a judicial review of a decision in Juoe by Greenwich council not to the fits powers usder the 1984 Road Traffic Regulations Act to close roads wheo they are a daoger to

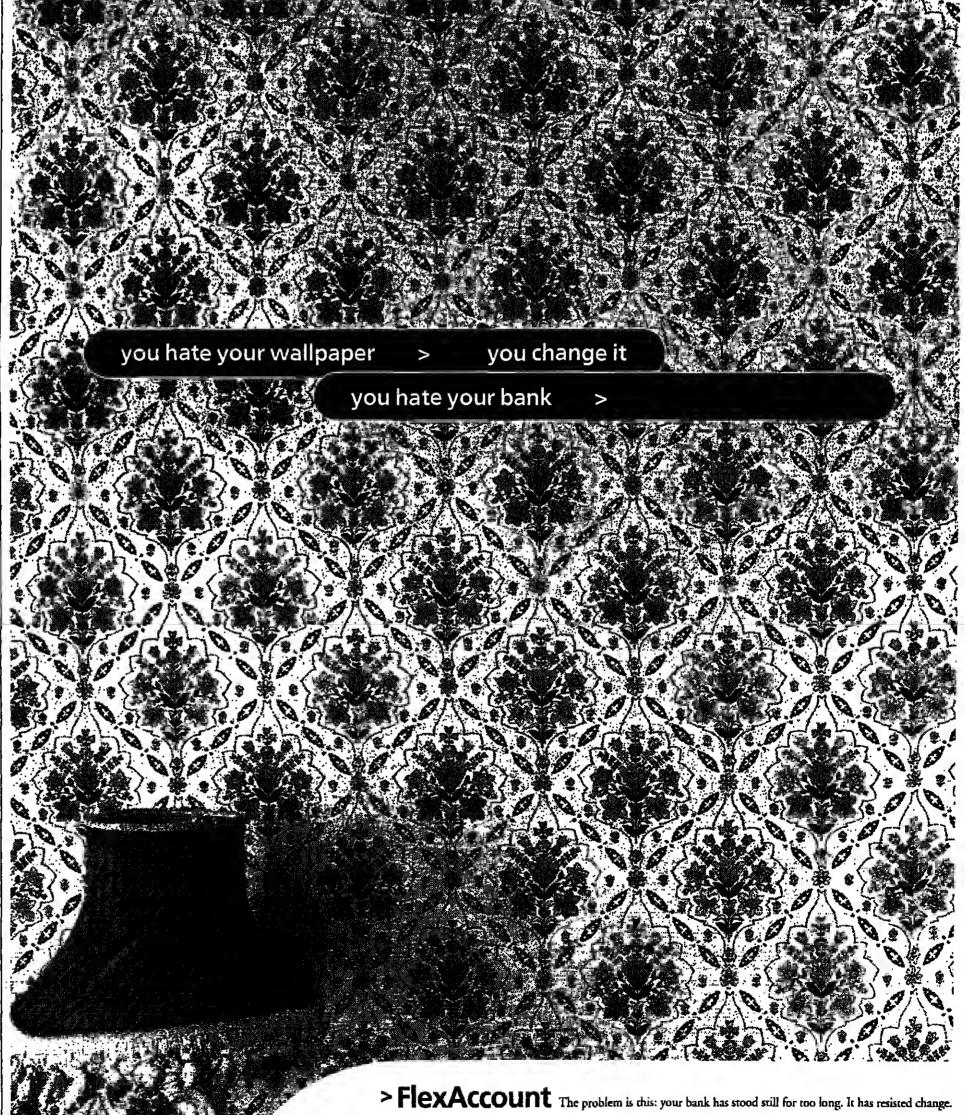
However, the judge warned the families not to anticipate victory. He said the case was "just about capable of being argued and should be argued"

The hearing should take place before Christmas.

Graham Read, for the families, said there was overwhelming evidence that air pollution, especially from car emissions, had an effect oo asthma sufferers.

An expert report indicated that Trafalgar Road, Greenparticularly subject to prob-lems because it was in a valley and because of the density and proximity of housing.

There had been insufficient consideration of the evidence by the council because it had misunderstood the scope of its power under the Act.



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Nationwide_

DAILY POEM

Poem

By Paul Bowles

I should hold my breath

If only I might live as many ceoturies as I shall years My pleasure would be choking me I should stand in the fleeting wind oo a high hill

And watch the stars swim over me for years At each rainstorm I shold feel the rough earth draining away Beneath my fingers like sand at the outgoing tide I could afford to take years at each hill at each gardeo I could lie at the oceanshore for the time of two lives

And watch the waves roll in and creep out I should find myself in oorthern castles nights where long since All is dead and the cobwebs waver in the midnight chill I should crawl down stony glens at the edge a crystal sphere

this large Could oot kill my thirst I should hunt out a planted slope high over the city at evening And watch the lights and watch the shadows and ships and

Islands and I should find a deep hot valley bursting with shad-Of leaves creeping with life and let beetles and ants crawl at

To see if I were dead I should spread my fingers fanwise in And challeoge it to shrink me or drain my fiery blood At dusk I should listen for footfalls in the thicket of vines oear

I first corresponded with Paul Bowles in 1947, writes Graham I first corresponded with Paul Bowles in 1947, writes Graham Ackroyd, just before he published The Sheltering Sky and at a time wheo he was contributing short stories to a literary magazine in Tangier called Zero. He sent me this poem, written wheo he was he was 19 or so, with a note to say that he had once shown it to Gertrude Stein. "You're no poet, Mr Bowles", the had all the state of the she had said, "Stick to composing", which rather put him off.

Paul Bowles's poem is published in Ninetles Poetry Number Five, edited by Graham Ackroyd and published by the Lansdowne Press, 33 Lansdowne Place, Hove BN3 1HF at £4.95.

international

At last, Sarajevo basks in luxury of electric light

EMMA DALY

The guns along Bosnia's front lines were due to fall silent at one minute past midnight last night, after natural gas and electricity began flowing to Sarajevo, the precondition for a 60-day ceasefire.

The government declared itself satisfied with the restoration northern town of Sanski Most of utilities to the capital yesterday, paving the way for a meeting last night to formalise the truce. But the darkest facet of the war - the ethnic cleansing of Serb-held areas - accelerated before the truce, after which the parties are supposed to treat prisoners and civilians

"As far as we are concerned, Landale, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo. A Bosnian minister, Hasan Muratovic, said the government would meet the rebel Serbs at Sarajevo airport last oight, after which "we will

proclaim the full implementa-tion of the agreement and our heavy fighting has reduced Serb ing into houses at the moment army will receive an order for

The UN High Commissiooer for Refugees said 8,000 to 9,000 Muslims were facing expulsion across the front line to central Bosnia. Some 650 refugees, with their tales of horror, were expelled from the by paramilitaries loyal to Zeljko Raznatovic, the notorious warlord known as Arkan.

Kris Janowski of the UN-HCR in Sarajevo said those expelled told stories of rape, robbery and torture, and of being detained without food in a makeshift camp as their men were taken away. Before the war, more than 500,000 Muslims and Croats lived in the Banja Luka area; fewer than 20,000 remain, and Mr Janowski said 8,000 to 9,000 Muslims may be

expelled in the next few days. Once the ceasefire is in place, the UN may at last win access

holdings in the past few weeks. The peace-keepers will need freedom of movement along front lines to monitor the truce and report violations. At pre-

only front-line area where the UN has a decent view. Much of Sarajevo's Old Town sank into darkness last night, but the city centre and parts of the new town were enjoying the delights of (heavily restricted) power supplies, and even, in some privileged areas, water. As was the case before the Serbs cut off electricity in May, residents are allowed to use only a few watts - eoough to power a television set, a couple of lights

"The city is in the process of being completely gassed up," said Gordon Hay of the British Overseas Development Ad-

and a stove, but no heating -

hence the vital importance of

gas supplies as winter ap-

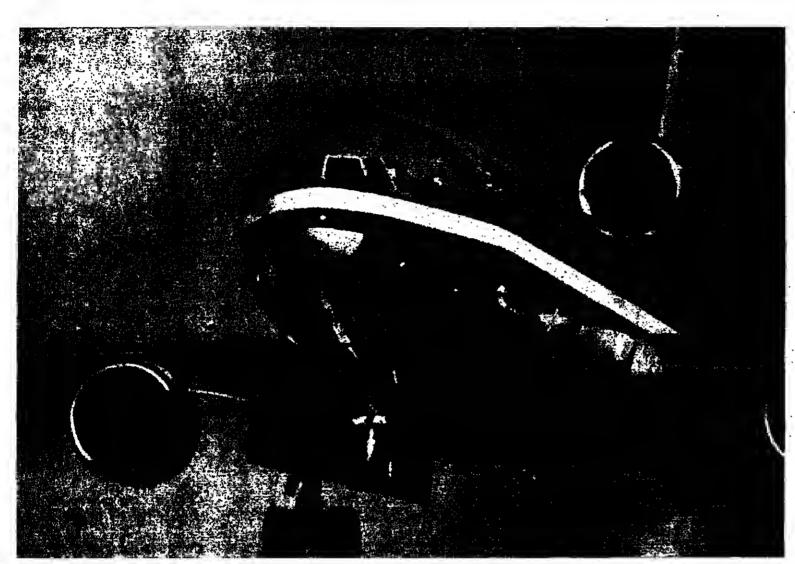
ing into houses at the moment in the centre of the city and the new part of town ... it is hoped that the whole city will be on by

The ODA engineers were promising a constant supply rather than the 24 hours on, 24 sent, Sarajevo is probably the hours off Sarajevans were accustomed to. And the gas now smells, which should cut the number of explosions. In the past, as pressure fluctuated and pilot lights failed, odourless gas built up until some unfortimate householder lit a match.

"We've lived in the dark for so long," Bosiljka Maraus said, her eyes filling with tears, as the lights went on. "I don't know what to do first ... I will cook something, theo I will clean the flat." City streets filled with the hum of vacuum cleaners and the sound of music yesterday -though most people, like Mrs Maraus, did the chores first, fearing the supply would cut out after three or four hours.



Souper: A Red Cross worker prepares to serve at one of the reopened soup kitchens in Sarajevo



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Killer of Britons shoots himself

Tangier (Reuter) — A police-man who killed two British ouche, a 39-old-father of four. tourists in the oorth Moroccan city of Tangier last week com-mitted suicide yesterday as police closed in on his hideout. Martin and Margaret Gow-

er, a couple in their 60s from Ruislip, west Loodoo, were killed instantly by the gunman, who shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) during a rampage last Friday. Patricia Sherrat, a British woman in her 50s who was shot in the back, flew home in a hospital plane on Sunday.

Police went to a house near Ksar Seghir, four miles north of Tangier, after hearing that the fugitive policeman was hiding there. The official Moroccan news agency, MAP, said: "As he noted their presence, he shot himself with a bullet in the head, which killed him instantly." The killer has been identified

ouche, a 39-old-father of four. He went on a shooting spree at a seaside hotel after killing his wife. Three other tourists, including a 12-year-old British girl, Charlean Barker Hall, were wounded in the attack at the Tariq hotel. Charlean and her pareots heard a woman shouting, "Help me! Save me!", and Charlean spoke to the gunman, who, she said: "looked carefully at me" before opening

Police said the shooting appeared to be a crime of passion by a distranght husband who thought his wife was cheating on him during frequent visits to the hotel. A German tourist who was in the bar at the time of the shooting said there were about 50 people in the bar when a man wearing a long white robe walked in and started shooting with a small pistol.

IN BRIEF

Nigeria cuts coup leader's sentence

Abuja - The life sentence imposed on the former military ruler of Nigeria, retired General Olusegun Obasanjo, oo charges of plotting a coup has been reduced to 15 years, the information rister Walter Ofonagoro announced at a news conference in the federal capital, Abuja. Sentences oo 41 others allegedly involved in the coup plot, including Geo Obasanjo's former number two Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, has also been reduced. Reuter

Court rules it can hold genocide trials

Addis Ababa - An Ethiopian court ruled it has the authority to try members of the former Marxist regime 00 genocide and murder charges. The Central High Court said the transitional government had the legal authority to set up the court to try members of the regime it defeated and replaced. Lawyers for the 70 defendants had argued the court lacked jurisdiction and that the defendants should be tried by an international tribunal. Tweotyfour of the 70 defendants are being tried in absentia, including
former President Mengistu Haile Mariam, who is in exile in Zimbabwe. All face the death penalty if convicted on genocide or mur-der charges stemming from the deaths of 1,823 people.

AP

Kim Jong-II still to take up key posts

Tokyo - North Korea's unanointed leader Kim Jong-Il made a rare public appearance at a military parade yesterday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Communist state's ruling party. Official media and the country's defence minister hailed Kim Jong-Il as the leader of the country's Communist Party, the state and the army, but there was oo formal announcement that he had assumed any of the key leadership posts.

Reuter

Three Mohajir rebels die in shootout Karachi - Pakistani police said that three detained militants of

the Mohajir National Movement (MQM) were killed in a shootout. Fahim Farooqi, alias Fahim Commando, a well-known militant leader, and two other MQM detainees died in a hail of gunfire after police had taken them to a house they had identified as an MQM hideout during interrogation.

Reuter

Hero general takes to the hills

Manila — A former much decorated Philippine army general charged with corruption has announced his defection to Communist rebels and urged other soldiers to join him in the mountains and overthrow the government. Raymundo Jarque, a former regional commander who won 30 medals for his exploits against rebels, said in a published statement he was switching loyalties because he could not expect justice from a system rotteo to its core. "The only way to justice is revolution. . . to the mountains and revolution!" he said.

UK ready to encourage Sri Lanka talks

London — Britain is ready to facilitate talks between the Sri Lanka government and Tamil Tiger rebels, who are on the brink of a new round of fighting in their 12-year civil war, writes Michael Sheridan. The Foreign Office minister Jeremy Hanley said on a visit to Colombo that the British government would help arrange a meeting if both sides wanted to oegotiate. In London, the Foreign Office said Britain did not want to mediate between the parties but was ready "to encourage them to come together," peraps at a location in the UK.

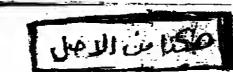
Pro-Algeria Chirac defies Islamic militants

Paris - Defiant in the face of threats from Islamic militants trying to overthrow the Algerian government. President Jacques Chirac confirmed he will meet with Algeria's president later this month. And in a new display of resolve to keep Muslim radicals from paralysing relations between France and its former colony, the French government announced it would resume ferry services

AP

Observers at risk in Chechen fighting

London - International observers may be forced to pull out of London — International observers may be forced to pull out of the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya after getting caught up in fighting between Russian troops and rebels, writes Michael Sheridan. A representative of the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe is to go to Chechnya to assess the security of the OSCE delegation. Its presence in the war zone was an important concession from Russia to ward off action by Western countries in response to its military campaign.



"Sons of Gestapo", appareotly responsible for Monday's fatal

train derailment in the

Speaking to business leaders at the White House, Mr Clin-

ton declared his "profound out-

rage" at an "act of cowardice"

which left one crew member of

Amtrak's transcontinental Sun-

set Limited train dead and 80

people injured. But, his aides in-

sisted, the President had not de-

cided the attack was an act of

terrorism. "That is a conclusioo

for law enforcement agencies to reach," said the White House

As the FBI took over, two

theories predominated. The

most popular was that, as sug-

gested by the references to Waco and Ruby Ridge in the

two ootes left near the wreck by

the "Sons of Gestapo", the de-railment followed the pattern of

fire. Cleveland's leaders were: parody of incompetence and

provincialism. One former may-

a blowtorch. Mrs Perk earned

her niche in old Cleveland's Hall

of Infamy by turning down an invitation to dinner at the White

House because it was her night at the bowling club. Finally,

Mayor Dennis Kncinich brought about the first financial default of a major US city in modern times. All fodder for the

funoymen: "What's the differ-

ence between Cleveland and the

Titanic? Cleveland has a better

city reborn. The centre is a steel, marble, and darkened glass showcase of modern US archi-

tecture. The Indians have left the sporting morgue of Munic-

ipal Stadium for a glittering \$200m (£130m) arena called Ja-

coh's Field, and are four wins

from their first World Series

since 1954. Finally, there is the Rock o' Roll Hall of Fame, a

dazzling white tower and su-

perstructure fused with a glass

pyramid, leaning out over the ake. For its rumbustious subject, the airy building may be too

reverential, too antiseptic. But

it's class, and class is the oame of the game in Cleveland. "By the end of the 1970s we were a city in freefall," Tom

Bier, an urban policy specialist

at Cleveland State University,

told mc. "No one could have

predicted this; it's far beyond

anything I thought possible."
"This" is a rale of enlightened

self-interest, linking local non-

profit foundations, big business and a new generation of

municipal leaders. At some

You doo't hear that sort of thing any more. Cleveland is a

orchestra."

spokesman, Mike McCurry.

Arizooa desert.

r of Briton



ts himself



















FBI puzzles over 'Gestapo' train wreckers RUPERT CORNWELL

April's bombing of the Federal huilding in Oklahoma City -Beyond doubt, it was sabotage. an act of revenge for the two attacks by government ageots on But one question yesterday isolationist movements. preoccupied the US authorities, from the FBI up to President The second theory owed less Bill Clinton: just who are the

to the ootes than to the oature of the sabotage, which showed at least a rudimentary knowledge of railways. Hence, this view goes, the culprit could have been a disgruntled former employee of Amtrak, the government-subsidised company operating the Sunset Limited and other long-distance pas-

senger services. Yesterday Klanwatch, an organisation that tracks hate groups, said it had oo record of "Sons of Gestapo" But, Klanwatch's director, Joe Roy, noted: "It's not unusual for a cell of a larger group to take an alias when it branches out. Or it could have been a solo individual with a grudge, trying to blame it on the militias."

The FBI is pursuing both possibilities, delving anew into the shady world of the citizens' militias - the bulk of them harmless, but a few composed of hard-core extremists bent on publican Congress.

ARIZONA

the destruction of the federal

On one point, however, he and specialists are agreed: Arizona, with its anarchic Wild West past, its proven connections with the militias and frequent appearances in the tale of Timothy McVeigh, who is the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City hlast, is a oatural breeding ground for such incideots.

Inevitably, new questions are being raised about Amtrak's safety - just as the railway is fighting to stave off further cuts in its funding by the Re-

Amtrak has suffered a oumber of accidents in the last few years, most lethally in 1993 when the Sunset Limited, this time heading east, plunged off a bridge into an Alabama lake,

drowning 47 people.

Antrak says that without resources for investment, its network will perforce grow more obsolete and less competitive. But Amtrak's chairman. Thomas Downs, insisted yesterday that the system was "100 per cent safe", and denied that the perpetrator was an embittered ex-employee.
"About 300,000 people" in the

to have removed spikes fastening the rails to the sleepers, unsections of rail and then rewired the signal which would have warned of a gap in the track. America's very size means that rail tracks can never be fully protected. The Sunset Limited's route covers 3.066 miles. the western third of them mostly empty desert. And one persoo could have sabotaged the

track in 10 minotes, a railroad



Rail rescue: Paramedics from the Arizona National Guard carry off an injured passenger from the Amtrak

Joke city of the rust belt reborn in steel and glass

What is North America's "in" would oot join the national city these days? Vancouver or Seattle oo the West Coast, you was the conversion of the old Baltimore and Ohio rail termimight imagine, or a booming metropolis of the South such as oal into a prototype big city office, shopping and restaurant complex. The apotheosis was Atlanta or Albuquerque. Not a bit of it. If there is one place on the debut of the Rock Hall of the planet that is oo a roll, it is Fame last month. For Rabbi this erstwhile rust-belt basket Ben Kamin, spiritual leader of case oo the gloomy shores of the Temple Tifereth Israel here, Not so long ago, Cleveland, alongside its hapless haseball team, the Indians, was a joke, more than human agency was

a "Mistake by the Lake" held this whole epiphany," he wrote up with Detroit as a case study in Cleveland's Plain Dealer. in terminal urban dysfunction. Cleveland is oot perfect. You So polluted was the Cuyahoga can argue that renewal is for the benefit of the suburbs - that, as river, which bisects the city, that in June 1969 it actually caught Mildred Madison, former city ber, put it, "They're doling out tax breaks for the downtown or, Ralph Perk, at a ceremony while the public school system designed to show his solidarity is rotting. with the working man, managed to set his own hair alight with

involved. "One couldn't help but wooder if God had a hand in

It is true, too, that a "sin tax" on cigarettes and alcohol to pay for the new baseball stadium, rejected by poorer inner city resideots, passed thanks to voters in the suburbs. The same may happeo over the renovatioo of Municipal Stadium, where the footballing Browns still play. "Cough up, or we're outta here," might be summed up as the attitude of the Browns' owners. Middle-class suburban America hates nothing so much as losing a major league sports

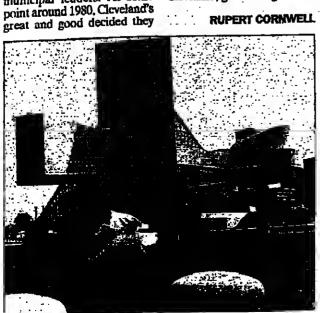
But, you sense, good things are slowly starting to spread to where they are really oeeded. Drive three miles east of downtown into the Hough oeighbourhood, scene of Cleveland's ghetto riots of the Sixties, and a remarkable sight awaits. Houses - decent, freestanding and oew - are being built in an American inner city. Not many yet, to be sure, and only with the help of tax breaks and federal incentives. But people are moving in, oot out. Amazingly, house sales and house prices are own rising faster in Cleveland proper than in the suburbs. Will it work? Can Cleveland.

in this racially poisoned post-OJ era, pull off what oo American city has thus far managed? "What we really want," Mr Bier told me, "is a mix of incomes and a mix of races. We're oot there yet, but we're heading in that direction." Forget the Indians and their gorgeous ballpark, forget the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and the other downtown splendours by the lake. To dream a little dream in Cleveland, go to Hough.

RUPERT CORNWELL

FREEPHONE

Investments On-line



On a roll: Designed by I M Pei, Cleveland's Rock 'n' Roll



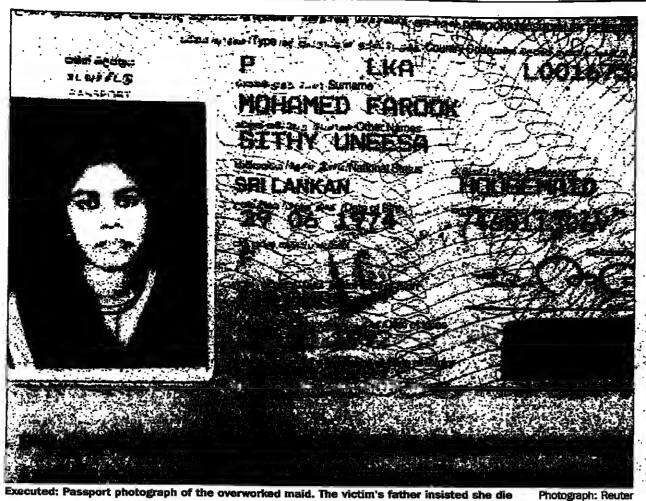
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international



No mercy for young maid who begged to go home

Said Saleh Mansour turned up every day to attend the trial in the United Arab Emirates of the 19-year-old accused of killing his four-year-old daughter.

Again and again, he urged the court to expedite her exe-cution. Asked to pardon the Sri Lankan maid, the father - a senior officer in the Ras al-Khaimar police department replied uncompromisingly.

"Sir," he wrote, "how can I par-don a person who has brutally killed my innocent daughter who was only four years of age?" The letter sealed the fate of Sithy Parook. In April, she was led from her prison cell to stand in a white abaya gown, crying uncontrollably, before a even-man firing squad.

Her father, Mohamed Nilan, a labourer attached to the city council in Colombo, capital of Sri Lanka, heard that the second of his five daughters had been executed after an Islamic

Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent, in his third report on Islamic executions of women, describes the tragic fate of Sithy Farook in the UAE

one of her friends. "Our daughter was so unhappy with her employers that she wrote frome many times saying she wanted to return to Sri Lanka, the told one of the lo-cal Golombo newspapers 12 days after his daughter's exe-cution. But we asked her to stay and complete her contract now look at the fate that

Appeals by the Sri Lankan overnment, its embassy in Abu Dhabi-the capital of the United Arab Emirates - and even from the president of the Ras al-Khaimar court, refused to trial only when neighbours soften Said Mansour's anger.

received a telephone call from Sithy Farook had stabbed his daughter to death on 17 October, 1994, and she must pay the price. In his eyes, and in those of the court, there were no extenuating circumstances; 110 one mentioned Sithy's pleading letters to her father, even if they knew about them. No one sug-gested — as Sithy told friends in the prison - that she had consed to the crime only because Said Mansour had promised she would be sent home to Sri

Lanka if she did. Sithy Parock's story is tragi-cally mundane, a pathetic tale of a former Colombo garment worker who was sent out to the emirates as a maid to earn enough money to buy her par-ents a new home in Sri Lanka, only to find herself over-

whelmed by the work she was given and the six children she was expected to look after. Her employer had invited relatives to live in his home, she wrote ordering Sithy to look after all of them - a total of 17 children, some of them babies, and one of them a handicapped girl.

After her execution, Sri Lan-

ka's newspapers - though very definitely not the emirates press - asked what had driven Sithy Farook to kill the fouryear-old girl. In court, she readily admitted to the murder, as she did to Sri Lankan embassy officials. A report by the Sri Lankan foreign ministry later recorded that Sithy without any hesitation or fear... admitted she committed the offence... she remembers the child biting ber arm and she, having lost her temper, stabbing her with a pen-knife offer nail-outter which was

in her familiat that moment."

Activities to Ras al Khaimar cours recent, Sithy stabled the fiftle girl with a "sharp steel key" after failing to resuscitate her when she had a fit. The records state that the maid then wrapped the child's body in a piece of cloth, placed it in a box and buried it beneath a

before the killing, Sithy had addressed several more letters to her parents, pleading to be al-lowed to go home, adding that her employer was not posting all her letters and was not passing on letters from her family. Her father gave his permission for her to come home but, so he said later, Sithy decided to carry on working for another two

When he heard of his daughter's death sentence, he met Sri Lanka's government leaders and personally appealed for his daughter's life to the Pres-ident of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan. The Sri Lankan charge d'affaires in Abu Dhabi discussed Sithy's case with the emirates' ministry of foreign affairs. Repeated offers were made to the dead child's family of "blood money" which would allow Sithy to be spared. But, according to the Sri Lankan authorities, the little girl's father, Said Mansour, still insisted upon Sithy's execution and would not accept any offer of money. Given the rules of Islamic law in such circumstances, the emirates' authorities concluded, the maid would have to be put to death.

Her father originally asked for the return of Sithy's remains to Sri Lanka. But he could not afford the cost of shipping her body home and reluctantly accepted that she should be buried in an unknown grave in Ras al-Khaimar. Sithy was a Muslim, and this would mean that she would be buried clos-

er to the holy city of Mecca.
When the Independent questioned the Sri Lankan ambassador to Abu Dhabi about Sithy's death last week, he said he had no details since he had only taken up his post a month earlier. The labour officer at the embassy would say only that Sithy was 20 years old when she was executed; she was in fact 19. When I asked if I could meet the Sri Lankan official who Handled Sithy's file, I was told that he was "quite ill at the moment". More than a month after Sithy's death, the Sri Lanka civil rights movement expressed its "shock and distress" that the most strenuous efforts to save her life had not been taken. Her execution was recorded in the neighbouring house. local emirates' press in a single paragraph on an inside page. local emirates' press in a single

Mexico plays down quake as toll reaches 66

Latin America Correspondent

President Ernesto Zedillo yesterday declared one of Mexico's prime tourist playgrounds a disaster area after at least 66 people, and possibly many more, were killed in Mexico's worst earthquake since 1985. But he went ahead with his first state visit to Washington, where he was greeted at the White House by President Bill Clinton

yesterday morning.
The government sought to play down the extent of Monday's quake in resorts along the Pacific coast, but it could be a crippling blow to tourism at a time when the struggling econ-omy badly needs the income.

The government sent troops to help with rescue work after Monday's tremor, measured at 7.6 on the Richter scale.

Worst hit was the upmarket resort of Manzanillo, 325 miles west of Mexico City. The sevenstorey Costa Real hotel collapsed completely, trapping 30 guests and 27 employees as guests took breakfast just after

Reuters reported that a 21year-old honeymooner, Carlos Jimenez, sat with his head in his hands waiting for rescuers to bring out his bride. He had seen her buried under a huge pillar, apparently dead.

Seven police officers were killed when a police station collapsed near Mauzanillo. Hotels were also damaged in another resort, Puerto Vallarta, but none collapsed.

Mr Zedillo, under fire for his handling of the economic crisis, the unsolved murders of two top politicians and a cardinal, and alleged government links with drug traffickers, was immediately criticised for going ahead

with his Washington trip.

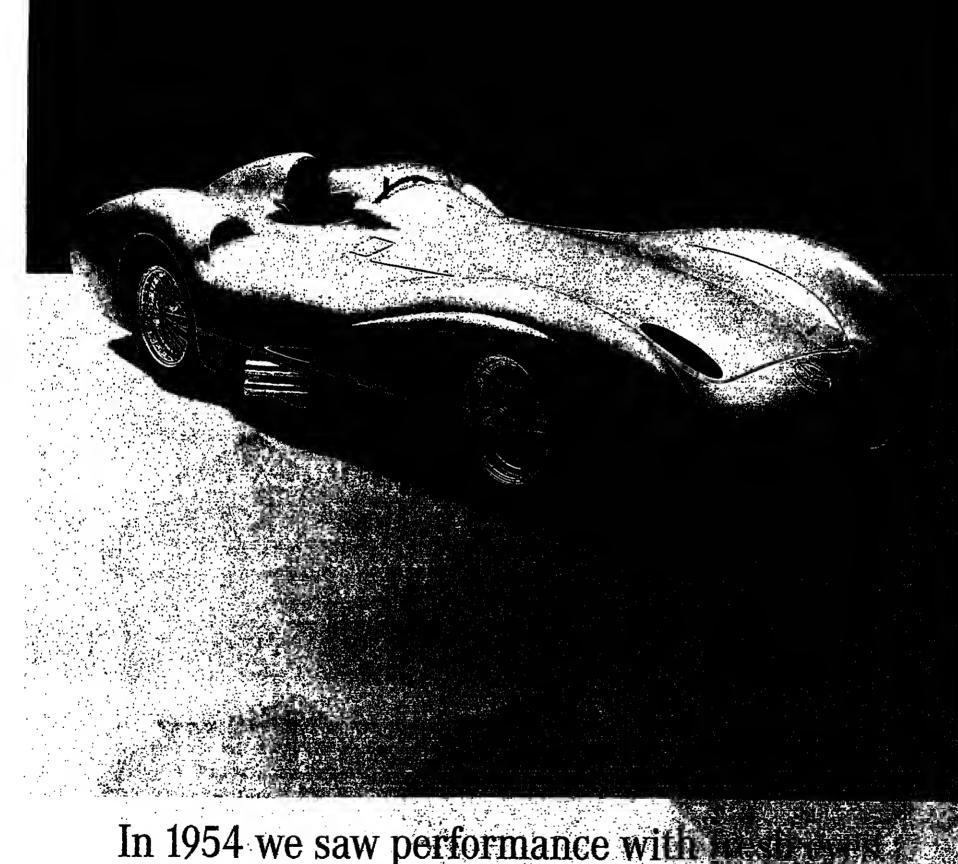
Possibly thinking of future tourist trade, he described the disaster as "not of unmanageable magnitude". That reminded Mexicans of the words of President Miguel de la Madrid in September 1985, after at least 6,000 people, and possibly up to 10,000, were killed in an earthquake regis-tering 8.1 on the Richter scale. He declared that Mexico did not need outside help. He later

had to retract that statement. After being greeted by Mr Clinton on the South Lawn, Mr Zedillo said they would discuss illegal immigration, Mexico's economy and drug trafficking.
More than 70 per cent of the cocaine consumed in the US
comes through Mexico, mostly
from Colombia. Asian gangs
use Mexico as a transit point for
heroin and it is also president. heroin and it is also a major

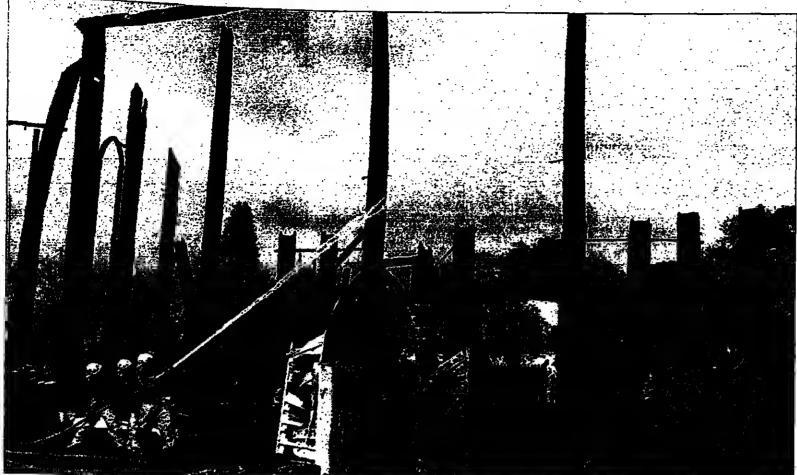
Source of marijuana.

A Colombian news report at the weekend said Mr Zedillo's election campaign last year had been partly financed by Colombia's Cali cocaine cartel. Adding that Mr Zedillo was probably unaware of such funding, the report said the information had come from a cartel informant in detention in the US. Mr Zedillo's government and the US Drug Enforcement Administration denied the report.





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Burning down of Maori church ignites race fears

From the outside, the church

was an example of the best ear-

ly colonial architecture; inside,

the atmosphere was over-whelmingly Maon, with great

The possibility that Ran-

"Abode of the Absolute" and

derives from a sacred island

divisions that have emerged in

New Zealand since the 1980s.

In the past two years there have been a series of tit-for-tat

attacks, always at night, on var-

ious symbols of the rival races

- a colonial statue here, a Maori community meeting house

covering the walls.

PETER WALKER

It is a signal of the changed tem-per in New Zealand that the sight of flames leaping from an old wooden church in the middle of the night now arouses sus-picion of racially-inspired arson.

The destruction of the Rangiatea Anglican church last weekend in the town of Otaki 40 miles oorth of Wellington would, in any case, have come as a blow to the country.

Rangiatea was built by one of the greatest figures in New Zealand history, the chief Te Rauparaha, who conquered much of the country at roughly the same time Europeans were settling. Although he probably never converted to Christianity, his church became a symbol of rare cross-pollination between the races, European and Maori.

Dozens of trees were hauled down to the coast by Maori, while European or pakeha sailors and whalers raised the

young English missionary, Oc-tavius Hadfield, also remem-pute over land occupation. Bepute over land occupation. Bebered for taking a group of Maori chiefs back to Oxford in fore last weekend's fire, graffiti had been sprayed on the statthe 1830s and there compiling ue of Te Rauparaha and elsethe first Maori lexicon. where in the churchyard.

Some in the local Maori community had no doubt yesterday about the cause and culprit behind the fire. "White power," they said.

woodeo pillars and tekoteko panels of decorative woven flax There is in fact no such group or body - but the phrase represents something real in New Zealand: an increasing giatea - the name means the anger among many whites at the new Maori assertiveness and demands for reparation for west of Tahiti - was deliberately burned down adds an ominous dimension to the racial

stolen or confiscated land. Te Rauparaha – who is also famous for composing the words of the haka that the All Blacks perform before rugby test matches - spent most of his life at war, before turning to the

arts of peace in his last years. For nearly a century and a half his handiwork was a symbol of concord. That it has now gone – either by accident or design - does oot bode well for

West's fears deepen over spread of missiles

HRISTOPHER BELLAMY Efence Correspondent

he spread of nuclear, biolog-al and chemical weapons and hllistic missiles to carry them i "one of the world's greatest oncerns", the Londoo-based lternational Iostitute for Frategic Studies (IISS) said in te latest editioo of its annual ervey of world military power, phlished yesterday.

However, the institute's dirctor, John Chipman, warned treat to fill a vacuum left by the second, to counter future attacks ollapse of Communism. "Not on the US itself." d these challenges can be met the astute deployment of miliry force. I don't think it's right t talk about Islam as an orpoised threat against the Test," Dr Chipman said.

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i quake?

eaches &

He also identified China and forth Korea as the only countes in cast Asia spending more o defence than was justified by teir legitimate needs. The IISS escribes China's behaviour as "ecretive" and accuses it of

'alsification" in accounting.
At present, no missiles comed by states other than the cficial nuclear club - the Unitd States, Russia, China, Britain ad France - can reach Europe r North America, but the IISS onfirmed predictions that the suation could change in the ext few years. North Korea is eveloping a missile that can rach US territory, and missiles Linched from North Africa and te Middle East are expected to bable to hit Britain in less than

The latest issue of The Militry Balance covers missile prol'eration, Chinese military sending and peace-keeping.

It is somewhat bizarre that te end of the Cold War has hightened perceptions of the rissile threat," the survey says. Ifteen countries apart from est European and former Soet states have surface-to-surfee missiles, casting doubt on te effectiveness of the Missile

(MTCR), signed by 25 countries. Key missile suppliers – including China - appear not to have complied fully with the MTCR guidelines.

The only alternative is, of course, active defence measures," The Military Balance says. These would range from anti-missiles such as the Patriots used in the 1991 Gulf war to more sophisticated measures as envisaged in the Eighties Star Wars initiative. The US is developing ballistic missile decainst those who portrayed Is- fences - first, to protect its own lm as a new and coherent forces and regional allies and

> According to the journal Aviation Week and Space Technol-ogy, so many missile defence studies are under way that Pentagon officials are fear it will not be possible to evaluate them all.

> For the moment, conventional aircraft are more likely to cause serious damage than missiles, the IISS says, because they can carry more explosive or chemical or biological agents and can hit more accurately. But the ballistic missile, "mainly on account of its range, speed and cost relative to that of a manned aircraft, is a favoured delivery means for proliferating states'

> Missile proliferation threatens three areas; the Middle East, where even relatively short range missiles can strike other states' capitals, the Indian subcontinent, and North Korea's neighbours.

The longest-range and most formidable missile in the Middle East is the Chinese-made CSS-2, deployed by Saudi Ara-With a range of nearly 1,700 miles and a two-and-a-half ton warhead, it outranges Is-rael's Jericho-2, which can fly 940 miles, and carries five times as much high explosive, chem-

ical or biological agent.
North Korea's Scud-C missile, with a range of more than 300 miles, can hit anywhere in South Korea, and the Taepo Dong missile, range 1,500 miles, now under development, could schoology Control Regime hit the US territory of Guam.

China quadruples defence budget

thina has been lying to the UN pout its defence spending, acording to the International Istitute for Strategic Studies, wites Christopher Bellamy. The Chinese do not report

leir defence spending to the bited Nations in the stanordised format. The United tates Defense Secretary, Alliam Perry, asked Peking last yar to "improve the transarency of their military ac-ounting. The HSS estimated thinese applicacy spending io 194 was 128bn (£17.5bn) fur times the official figure. Calculating the defence sending of Communist regnes has abrays been difficult.
his year a said of the HSS's
he Military Bolance features detiled analyses of that of Rusa and China. The latter is emplicated by the fact that the tople's Liberation Army not aly manages armed forces of



William Perry: Asked China to give true military facts

has 25,000 industrial enterprises, distinct from the defence industries, with a civilian workforce of up to 3.5 million. Since 1979 China has shifted from the doctrine of "People's war" - a guernila war on Chinese territory - to "local was" - a ma-jor regional common Although the HSS considers has remote, China has formed amad reaction million, making exact ac-ounting impossible, but also forces and given top priority to



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Kukrit Pramoj

A former prime minister of Thailand, an international film star, a journalist, a oewspaper proprietor, a banker, an art connoisseur, a Thai classical dancer, Kukrit Pramoj was a man for all seasons; or, rather, a man who knew how to weathhead of state. er the ecormous political and social changes that have transformed his country from a sleepy South East Asian hackwater into a Mecca for economic investment and

international tourism. By birth he was an aristocrat and proud of it, although he often joked that his official title Mom Rajawong, usually ab-breviated to "M.R.", stood for minor royalty. Kukrit was in fact a great-grandson of the second king in the current Thai royal dynasty and he wrote several nostalgic semi-historical novels about life at court in the time of his forebears. However, even at the turn of the century the absolute monarchs of Siam, as the country was then called, realised they could not forever insulate their kingdom from the outside world. Bending with the wind, the princes who occupied all the leading positions under the absolute monarchy sent their numerous offspring to be educated abroad. As a result Kukrit experienced a traditional British public school upbringing, at Trent College, in Derbyshire although he never complained about it as did his elder brother Seni - followed by Queen's

College, Oxford. Nevertheless the ruling princes did not bend far enough and in 1932 their comfortable world was shattered. A group of commoners staged a virtually bloodless coup to oust the absolute monarchy and introduce a constitutional government, albeit retaining the King as

No longer could Kukrit look forward to occupying a position at court where he could include in his passion for Thai art, literature and classical dancing. Instead he had to go out and earn a living in the incipient world of Thai banking. But it was after the Second World War, in which he played no role (unlike his brother Seni, who as Thai Ambassador to the United States led the Free Thai movement abroad in opposing the Japanese occupation), that Kukrit discovered his major vocation. He founded a newspaper, Liberty, as a platform for criticising those who had abolished the absolute monarchy, whom he regarded as corrupt

and simply hungry for power. These views met with considerable sympathy amongst the Bangkok elite and he was elected to the National Assembly in 1946 on the basis that he opposed the ruling clique. But the acerbic wit in which he elothed such criticism earned him many enemies, including the wartime dictator Field Marshal Pibul Songkram, who returned to power after a military coup in 1947. That, and the subsequent imposition of increasingly strict press censorship, tion: in 1973 a spontaneous pop-seemed to put an eod to ular uprising to everybody's Kukrit's political and jour-surprise and after much blood-

oalistic career. Instead, during the next 22 years of virtually unbroken military dictatorship in Thailand, he devoted himself to cultivating his interest in preserving and fostering Thai

His reputation brought him to the attention of Hollywood for the casting of the film The Ugly American, a cynical view of a supposedly imaginary South East Asian country caught up in the wiles of US diplomatic intrigue at the time of the Vietnam war. Kukrit was chosen to star in the film as the Prime Minister of Sarkhan who has to cope with a somewhat boorish American ambassador played by Marion Brando. Little could he have realised in 1962, when the film was shot, that it was a role he would come to play in real life 13 years later.

Like Sarkhan, Thailand was

enormously affected by the

neighbouring wars in Vietnam. Not only did Thailand see a massive influx of American aid during the 1960s "to prevent it from going Communist". It also had to cope with the presence of large numbers of Americans who established seven air force bases in Thailand as well as using Bangkok as the main recreatioo centre for their troops fighting in Vietnam. Despite the negative aspects of this physical and cultural invasion, it began to transform political attitudes as well, especially amongst the younger generashed, succeeded in ousting Thailand's military dictatorship. The country was returned to civilian rule under a government to be elected according to a new constitution.

This was Kukrit's great op-portunity to revert to his former career as journalist and politician. He established the Social Action Party to campaign in the elections held in early 1975 on the basis of spreading Thailand's newly acquired economic prosperity more evenly throughout the country. This party gained a lot of popular support, but not an overall majority in the Assembly which, unexpectedly and some would say perversely, decided that the Democrat Party with many fewer seats should try to form a coalition government under the premiership of its leader Seni Pramoj - Kukrit's brother. But Seni was much less skilful a politician and sooo lost a vital vote of confidence in the Assembly which had then no oth-

become Prime Minister. It was a task he took on with relish as if be had been waiting for it all his life. But this was 1975, when the Communists gained control of oeighbouring Cambodia followed by Vietnam and Laos in quick succession, leading to fears that Thailand might soon succumb. In the tradition of Thai diplomacy, Kukrit presided over a major readustment in the country's foreign policy, first by appeasing China and establishing diplomatic relations during the course of a

er resort but to ask Kukrit to

historic visit to Peking to talk to Mao Tse-tung. Then, bowing to militant left-wing student pressure, he demanded that the Americans withdraw all their military bases from Thailand immediately in order to avoid any possible provocation for a Communist takeover.

These moves deeply divided public opinion, which had become volatile following the end of the military dictatorship, with militant groups taking to the streets of Bangkok on any pretext. In one such demonstration, an angry clique of police marched to Knkrit's home and burnt it down, together with his priceless collection of antiques.

But it was the issue on which he had campaigned during the election which finally spelled the end of his government in early 1976. To boost the income of the peasants in the countryside, he proposed that the price of rice should be increased in urban Bangkok. This brought down upon him the wrath of his opconents in the Assembly, who forced his resignation and new elections. His brother Seni was briefly brought back to premiership; hut once more the

Short as his spell as prime minister was, and he was never to return to power again, Kukrit Pramoj came to be re-garded as Thailand's elder statesman. He had, after all, negotiated with Mao and dared to argue with Henry Kissinger. What is more, even after the return to power of the military, he

did not hesitate to express his opinions in forthright terms both in the columns of Siam Rath, the newspaper he controlled, or directly to journalists who frequently made their way to his home.

For instance, during yet another military coup attempt in the mid-1980s, I managed to force my way through his gate by virtue of having met him previcusly on social occasions, to be told that the only way to stop Thailand's seemingly endemic coups was to shoot all the generals. But then Kukrit abruptly changed the subject and started talking about his latest hobby: growing daffodils and crocuses with the help of a deep freeze. This, he said, provided a sensation of winter before emerging into Thailand's

tropical heat. His knowledge of flowers prompted him on another occasion to describe one of his less robust successors in the premicrahip as a "pressed pansy" which, given his own sexual tendencies, about which he made no secret after divorcing his wife, was interpreted not so much as malice but as a matter of fact. It was typical, too, of the man Thais have come to love and hate as the most colourful and outspoken politician and journalist of their past few

Kukrit Pramoj, politician: born 20 April 1911; prime minister of Thailand 1975-76; died Bangkok



Professor P. W. Richards

P. W. Richards made outstanding cootributions in two fields of botany, the ecology of tropical rain forest and the taxonomy and ecology of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts).

His intensive field experience in all three of the major tropical regions equipped him to write a book, The Tropical Rain Forest (1952), in which he synthesised not only his own work, but much scattered information, often fragmentary and from obscure sources. Characterised not only by scholarship hut by its clear style and readability, a feature of all his published work, it stimulated much further work on rain forest. Although many books on the subject have since appeared, it is still widely quoted. His later years were devoted to the preparation of an enlarged, completely revised and eagerly awaited new edition. Sadly, although he had passed the first proofs, he did not live to

see it published. produced a synthesis (a chap-ter in Manual of Bryology, 1932) which opened the way to further work. His easy style of writing allowed him to produce two successful, more popular, books: the King Penguin Book of Mosses (1950) and The Life of the Jungle (1970). The latter oot only brought out the fascinating complexity of rain forest to the general reader, but emphasised the importance of its

conservation. He was born in 1908 at Walton on the Hill, Surrey, the youngest son of H.M. Richards, then medical officer of health for Croydon, but moved to Cardiff and then to London. At the age of eight Paul Richards was already collecting plants. He was put in touch with G.C. Druce, who encouraged him



Richards: tropical rain forests

and enrolled him in the Botanical Exchange Club, describing him in 1919 as "our youngest member". By 1920 he was also

studying mosses. In 1927 he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1931 with first class honours and was awarded the Frank Smart Prize for Botany. With the award of the Coutts-Trotter Studentship he emelected a Fellow of Trinity in

His early dedication to the study of plants in the field was maintained throughout his life. On starting work for his PhD he was persuaded to use cherry laurel, theo a favourite plant of Cambridge plant physiologists, in physiological experiments, hut he soon realised that laboratory experimentation was oot for him and his thesis was on the ecology of tropical rain forest, work which he had already started while still an

uodergraduate. In 1929 he was a member of ao expedition to Morahalli Creek in Guiana, a major research effort staffed otherwise by experienced workers. On this he developed a technique of forest description, the "forest profile", which soon became very widely used. He would fell a narrow strip of forest, and measure each tree fully, with its height in the canopy, in order to elucidate the layered structure of the rain forest. In 1932 he joined a major expedition to Sarawak, and in 1936 organised and led an expedition

From 1938 to 1949 he was on

to Nigeria.

the staff of the Cambridge University Botany School, and in 1949 was appointed to the chair of botany in the University Col-lege of North Wales (now known as the University of Wales, Bangor) and remained there until retirement in 1976. On moving to Bangor he found a small, though active department. At a time of expansion, he was able to build up a much larger department with wide interests. It became internationally known as a centre of ecological research and attracted visitors from many parts

of the world. from the tropics particularly in mind, he established an MSc course in ecology, one of the first in Britain, which attracted many overseas students. A respected figure in the college, he served terms as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Vice-Principal. His own teaching placed emphasis oo fieldwork and many students can trace their interest in bryophytes and

ecology to his inspiration. He was an active member of the British Ecological Society, (serving as President from 1962 to 1963 as Editor of the Journal of Ecology 1958-63 and one of the instigators of the Biological Flora of the British Isles) and of the British Bryological Society, holding the office of President in 1978-79. He travelled

pointments in universities world-wide and attending numerous international meetings; those which included opportunities to examine vegetatioo in the field particularly attracted

From early in his career he was concerned with problems of conservation. He was a member of Nature Conservancy and of the National Parks Commission, and was chairman of the Nature Conservancy Committee for Wales from 1956 to 1967, at a time when many decisions on nature reserves were being made. His international standing and integrity were recognised when he was asked to serve on the committee set up by the American National Science Foundation to examine the consequences of the use of

herbicides in the Vietnam war. On his retirement from Bangor, he and his wife Anne, who had been a fellow student in the Cambridge Botany School, moved back to Cambridge and tacts with Trinity and the Botany School

Peter Grieg-Smith

Paul Westmacott Richards. botanist: born Walton on the Hill, Surrey 19 December 1908: Fellow, Trinity College, Cambridge 1933; Professor of Botany, Uni-versity College of North Wales 1949-76 (Emeritus); member, Nature Conservancy 1954-67; member, National Parks Commission 1955-59; Chairman, Nature Conservancy Committee for Wales 1956-67; President, British Ecological Society 1962-63; Editor, Journal of Ecology 1958-63; President, British Bryological Society 1978-79; CBE 1974; Linnean Medal 1979; married 1935 Sarah Anne Hotham (one son, three daughters); died Cambridge 4 October 1995.

Sir Frederick Delve

Frederick Delve, for 14 years Chief Officer of the London Fire Bugade, was an outstanding figure in the world of fire. His 92 years spanned the part of a century remarkable for its increase in fire hazards and in developing the essential services for dealing with them. "Freddy" Delve was the son

of a Brighton master tailor. His parents' plans for his education were shattered in 1918 when an over-patriotic "flapper" on Brighton sea-froot mistook the tall, blond teenager for an older man dodging military service, and pinned a white feather to his lapel. To his parents' distress, he joined the Royal Navy on his 16th birthday. The war ended two weeks later.

Resigned to Service life, Delve became a wireless telegraphist. His ship was sent to : the Black Sea to evacuate the British Military Missions as the Red Army overran the ports there and for the first time he became aware of the impor-

Brigade. By 1929 he had passed a series of technical examinations with distinction, beeo commended for two particularly courageous rescues and promoted at the age of 27 to Second Officer - the youngest in Britain. He moved to the prestigious Croydon Fire Brigade as Chief Officer in 1934 and under his leadership they became the first in the country to install radio communications between all appliances and HQ.

It was from Croydon that he led his brigade to the legendary Crystal Palace fire in 1936. There, he said, "for the first time I saw firemen turning their brass helmets back to front to protect their faces from the aring heat." It was there too that he developed the skill which was to become vitally important during the Blitz, of relaying hose over long distances and, if necessary, uphill from the

water sources to the fires. Delve was one of a small

bombing in any future war. It was not until after the air attack on civilians in Guernica during the Spanish Civil War that, in 1937, the Home Office set up a committee, on which Delve served, to advise on changes in the fire service in Britain which, at that time, comprised more than 1,660 different brigades, most with equipment incompatible with neighbouring forces. The ensuing Fire Brigade Act of 1938 established the Auxiliary Fire Service and.

women to the brigades. As war started he became Deputy Inspector-in-Chief of Fire Services and when the enemy began their saturation raids on Britain's cities he travelled to their aid with help, advice and, if necessary, support from neighbouring hrigades or the

for the first time, admitted

armed services. The heroism of the Blitz firefighters could not hide the deficiencies of their equipment group of young, dedicated se- and organisation and Delve

vice in 1942. Soon afterwards was appointed Chief Officers No 5 Region - the whole Lodon area including its 70 crà of the River Thames Formatin which he delighted in equippig with radio-communication. was to prove essential in the work protecting the fleet of suport vessels which packed the Thames Estuary, laden wh explosives and ammunitiq.

awaiting D-Day. When the RAF began the intensive campaign against d emy cities, Delve was among te fire chiefs who advised on hy to achieve optimum resus from fire bombing. Soon he vis protecting London from the d-slaught of V1 and V2 rocke.

After the war, when the NE was disbanded, Delve remaind in London as Chief Officer f the re-formed London Fr Brigade where he dealt with the many new problems, includig tower blocks, increasingly dficult traffic accidents and the dangers of moving hazardos In 1922 Delve left the Navy, pressing the Government to persuaded the Government to He replaced the old struct it and joined the Brighton Fire take seriously the threat of fire establish the National Fire Seralarm posts with the "999" sttem, modernised the flect of fe

> appliances and began a building scheme for fire statios. He was the first Chief Ofcer of the LFB to be knightli in office and, on his retirement in 1962, joined the board of \$curicor. He never ceased b grieve for his wife, who died :ter 56 years of happy marrias.

> Sally Hollowy Frederick William Delve, fire 4 ficer: born 28 October 190; Chief Officer, Croydon Fe Brigade 1934-41; Deputy L spector in Chief, National F. Service 1941-43; CBE 194: Chief Officer, London F Brigade 1948-62; Kt 1962; meried 1924 Ethel Morden (di

1980): died 2 October 1995.

langerie gengen.

Delve (centre) with Viscount Montgomery of Alemein, reviewing the London Fire Brigade in 1959

Birthdays Sir Godfrey Agnew, former Clerk of the Privy Council, 82; Sir Anthony Beaumont Dark, former MP, 63; Miss Maria Bueno, tennis player, 56; The Hon Sir Adam Butler, former government minister, 64; Sir Bobby Charlton, footballer, 58; Vice-Admiral Sir John Coward, Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey, 58; Sir Timothy Daunt, former ambassador to Turkey, 60; Sir Michael Edwardes, company chairman, 65; Miss Dawn ch, actress and comedienne, 38; Mr Geoffrey Haslam, insurance company director, 81; Sir Denys Henderson, chairman, Rank Or-ganisation, 63; Mr Charles Jones, regional director, CIBT Education Services, South East Asia, 61; Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McIntosh, 76; Mr Alan Pascoe, former Olympic hur-dler, 48; Maj-Gen Francis Piggott, 85; Lord Prior, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, 68; Dame Diana Reader Harris, former Headistress, Sherborne School for Girls, 83; Mr David Rendall, tenor, 47; Mr Jerome Robbins, chorcographer, 77; Air Marshal Sir Michael Stear, 57; Lord Tordoff, former president of the Liberal Party, 67; Mr Thomas Wheare, headmaster of Bryanston School, 51; Mr Richard Wilson, civil servant, 53; Mr Tony Worthington

Anniversaries Births: Arthur Phillip, admiral and first governor of New South Wales, 1738: James Barry, historical painter, 1741; Heinrich Wilhelm Matthaus Olbers, astronomer, 1758; Sir George s, merchant and founder of the YMCA, t821: Henry John Heinz, food-products magnate, 1844; Sir John Bernard Partridge, artist and

son, physicist and psychologist, 1881;

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, writer and lecturer, 1884; François Mauriac, author, 1885; Richard Burton (Jenkins), actor, 1925. Deaths: Huldrych Zwingli, religious reformer, killed in hattle 1531; Sir Thomas Wyatt, poet and diplomat. 1542; Meriwether Lewis, explorer, 1809; Samuel We ley, composer and organist, 1837; James Prescott Joule, physicist, 1889; Maurice de Vlaminck, painter, 1958; Leonard "Chico" Mars, come 1961; Jean Cocteau, poet, novelist and playwright, 1963. On this days the Order of the Bath was constituted, 1399; the title "Defender of the Faith" was conferred on Henry VIII by Pope Leo X, 1521; the Spanish fleet was engaged by the Dutch admiral Maarten Bromp, 1639; Peter the Great became Tsar of Russia, 1669; the Chicago Fire ended, having almost completely destroyed the city at a cost of \$196m, 1871; the Lustral Chicago Fire Property of the Chicago Fire ended, having almost completely destroyed the city at a cost of \$196m, 1871; the Lustral Chicago Fire Property of the Chicago Fire Property tania, on her maiden voyage, crossed the Atlantic in record time, 1907; enarmous inflation overtook German currency, with the mark dropping to an exchange rate of 100n to the pound, 1923; in China, fighting broke out between the Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek and the Communists under Mao Tsc-tung, 1945; the Apollo 7 spacecraft, with a crew of three, was launched from Cape Kennedy, 1968. Today is the Feast Day of S1 Agilbert, St Alexander Sauli, Saints Andronicus, Tarachus, and Prohus, St Bruno the Great of

Receptions A reception was held by the Corporation of London yesterday evening at Guildhall, London EC2, to mark

Cologne, St Canice or Kenneth, St

Soledad and St Nectarius of

arms or Gomaire. St Mary

the appointment of the Guildhall Li-brarian and Director of Libraries and Art Galleries, Mr Melvyn Barnes, as President of the Library Association. Sir Christopher Walford, Lord Mayor of London, and Mr Barnes were

widely, holding many visiting ap-

United Medical and Dental Schools

The following were awarded Hon-orary Fellowships of the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals at a cer-emony held on 5 October at Southwark Cathedral, London SE1: Professor Heary Barcroft; Lord Butterfield; Professor Ronald Emaile; Sir John Green-borough; Mr Harold Ridley; Viscount Whitelaw.

Professor Andrew Rutherford, Vice-Chancellor, London University, presided. A reception was held af-terwards in the Glaziers' Hall, London SE1, followed by a dinner in the Governors' Hall, St Thomas' Hos-

pital, London.

John Middleton, Lord Campbell of Eskan, of Nettlebed, Oxfordshire, Chairman of Booker McConnell 1952-66, and a director of London Weekend Television 1967-74, left estate valued at £421.176 net. Sir Lionel Alexander Bethane Pilkingon, of London SW1, former chairman of Pilkington Glass, left es-tate valued at £1,869,877 net. Mr Benjamin Arthur Flemyng, of Brighton, East Sussex, Robert Fle-

myng, the actor, left estate valued at £308,538 net. He left his silver inkwell to Denville Hall, Northwood, Middiesex, for use in the library. Mrs Margaret Anne Borges, of

at £4,457,012 net.

Lectures

National Gallery: John Leighton "Before Impressionism (5) er, The Laundress", 1pm. onism (ii): Daum Victoria and Albert Museum: Louise

Leans, "Glass by Morris Marinot 1882-1960", 2.30pm. Gresham College (at Hinde Street Church, London W1): Professor David Owen Norris, "Hidden Depths: a performing analysis of Brahm's six piano pieces Op 118",

6pm.
London School of Economics , London School of Economics , London don WC2 (Gender Institute Lecture in commemoration of the Gay Lib eration Pront): Professor Jeffrey Weeks, The Legacy of GLF, 5.30pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queen bolds an investibute at Buc Palace, The Princess Royal, President, Re-

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted at Bot Stones the Queen's Life Quard at Bot

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS MARKIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adop MARRIAGES & DEATES (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding analyersaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gauste Edins, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wheef, London Eld SDL, telephoned in \$171-293 2011 (24-bour answering machine \$171-293 2012) or facul in \$171-293 2010, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Council under no duty to house EC nationals

Council, ex parte Castelli; R v Same, ex parte Tristan-Garcia; Queen's Bench Division (Roger Henderson QC, sitting as a deputy

judge); 5 October 1995

A housing authority has power to decide whether an applicant for housing has the right to reside in the United Kingdom in order to decide whether it owes a duty to provide ac-commodation under Part III of and housing benefit.

the Housing Act 1985. Roger Henderson QC dismissed two applications for judicial review of the council's decisions that it owed oo hous-

ing duty to either applicant.
The first applicant, an Italian, arrived in the United Kingdom in March 1994 with £3,000 to set up a business. However he was unsuccessful, his health deteriorated and he suffered from being HIV positive. In February 1995 the council secured temporary accommoda-tion for him under section 63

of the Housing Act 1985 and made inquiries into his possihie homelessness under section 62. In April the council decided that it owed no duty to house him under Part III of the Act as he had no right of residence

in the UK. The second applicant came from Spain to the UK in February 1993. He lived with an un-

11 October 1995

cle and ohtained employment. He returned to Spain in early 1994 and came back to the UK in February 1994 when he had no paid employment and had to leave his uncle's accommodation. He had HIV infection and obtained income support

He was informed by the immigration and nationality department's standard letter that his right as an EC national to enter and reside in the UK was on a non-economie capacity provided he had enough resources to avoid being a burden oo public funds. He was asked to make arrangements to leave the UK but told that if he did not do so he would not be forced to leave. The council decided that it was under no duty to house him under Part III since he had no right to

reside here. Jan Luba (Terrence Higgins Trust; immunity Legal Centre) for the applicants; Clive Hugh Jones (Council Solicitor) for the council.

Roger Henderson QC said that the preliminary point was whether the council had any proper function in making decisions about the applicants' rights to reside in the UK. The

LAW REPORT

Tower Hamlets LBC [1993] QB 632 belied any distinction between inquiries about cotry and inquiries about residence. Although it would oot he wrong for the council to take advice from an appropriate government department, the council rather than the IND in this case, was the appropriate authority to decide about the applicants' status and about whether and if so what duties

reasoning in R v Secretary of

State for the Environment, ex

were owed onder the 1985 At the time when the council made its decision oeither ap-plicant had any right under EC law to be present in the UK and domestic law conferred no such right. The UK immigration authorities had decided to do nothing to remove them but they enjoyed no right not to be

In the light of the Tower Hamlets case, a person who had entered this country illegally and who had acquired no right be here was owed no duty by a local housing authority under Part III of the Act. Applying that rationale, no duty was owed to a person who had no right to reside and in respect of

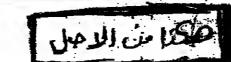
removed

whom the immigration au thorities had made oo clear de eision that they were sanctioning his residence. Par liament did not intend housing authorities should owe dutied to people who had come from other EC states who were not self-supporting, oot exercising rights of workers, or otherwis discharging functions compatible with the promotioo of

European objectives. Housing authorities could construe the status of recipients of JND letters as unlawful and decide they awed no duties to such persons. If the consc quence of a person's having no right of residence was that the council owed no duty to him his reasonable course was to turn to the place where he had such a right. If he was not exercising a community right and he was homeless, he should head home. If on an objective and stringent examination of the evidence his residence wa in reliance on no right, it was reasonable and lawful that no Part III duty was owed to

house him once that decision had been lawfully made. The council had the powe and the duty to decide what the applicants' rights, if any, were in respect of residence. The de-

cision in each case was lawful Ying Hui Tan, Barriste



Why Major's tax promises just don't add up

The state of public finances has left the Chancellor with very little room for manoeuvre to satisfy conference expectations. Paul Wallace explains

All chancellors have to speak unexpected economic slowdown has forced up public borrowing. The messages of financial sobriety for the City and barnstorming euphoria for the voters. The dilemma is always at its most acute at conference time, when the audience being addressed

But seldom has a chancellor faced a greater test of verbal dexterity than Kenneth Clarke will when be stands up to make his speech tomorrow in Blackpool. On the one hand, he has to boost morale with a pledge of tax cuts – or face the wrath of the party. On the other hand, he also knows be can't afford them. No wonder the speech has apparently gone through extensive drafts.

Two weeks ago, the City fired a sighting shot, warning of the barrage it could lay on a lax Budget. For the first time ever, it did not buy all the

The Chancellor talks tough on spending, but he has found it just as difficult to deliver real expenditure cuts as his predecessors

new government debt the Bank of England was trying to sell in one of its regular bond auctions to finance public borrowing.

That auction was for £3bn, but the Government may have to raise 10 times that in the current financial year. This week the Ernst & Young Item Club forecasting group, which uses the Treasury model, projected a deficit of £27bn, much more than the £21.5bn the Treasury anticipated last November. Worse still, even without tax cuts, it forecast a deficit of £25bn for next year, 1996-97, almost double the £13bn the Chancellor or his last Budget.

The deterioration in the public finances has come for two principal reasons. One is that tax revenues have proved disappointing in the current recovery. In June, the Treasury conceded that VAT, income tax and corporation tax were coming in below the levels it had anticipated at the time of the last Budget. These lower receipts would "knock cated to tax cuts. Whether the magic through" into next year's tax revenue.

The second reason is the slowdown in the economy. Just as higher-than-expected growth in 1994 brought down borrowing more than had been forecast, so this year's rather than for real.

forced up public borrowing. The effect is to leave the Government much further from its objective of balancing the books by the end of the Nineties. It also imperils the objective of bringing the deficit as a percentage of national output down to 3 per cent by 1997, a condition for eligibility to participate in European monetary union. Disconcerting though it may be to the predomi-nantly Euro-sceptical delegates at the conference, the Government wants to keep its options open on

Against this background, there can be little doubt about the mood music Mr Clarke would seek to strike if his audience this week were sobersuited City bankers at the Mansion House. In between the quaffing and guzzling, there would be much solemn intoning about the need to abide by the sacred principles of sound finance. But Mr Clarke's audience is the Tory faithful, who will want a much more upbeat tune about

There is only one way to square the circle: spending cuts. The trouble is that this is much easier to promise than it is to deliver. Mr Clarke talks tough on spending, but in practice he has found it just as difficult to deliver real expenditure cuts as his predeces-

In his November 1993 Budget, for example, the Chancellor said he was going to cut the "control total"—the key spending figure targeted by ministers—by 1.25 per cent in real terms. That was the plan; the reality was that by the time all the bills had come in it furned out to have risen by as

Even before the current drive for new spending cuts, the Treasury's plan to limit growth in the control total next year to less than 0.5 per cent was extraordinarily tight. This would be ambitious for a normal year: on average, public spending has grown by just under 2 per cent over the past 15 years. But this Budget is for a pre-election or maybe even an election year, when largesse with the public purse has historically been the order of the day. In 1992-93, for example, the control total rose by

With so little room for manoeuvic what we may therefore expect is a piece of vintage Treasury legerdemain. Tax cats are coming and will be justified by notional spending cuts. The most likely rabbit Mr Clarke will pull out of the hat will be a cut in the contingency reserve -money held back for unbudgeted spending - which will then be allowill last is quite another matter. But then it is quite possible that it will be another chancellor who will have to pick up the bill if the spending cuts turn out to be strictly presentational



So tax cuts can be paid for from savings in public spending? Think again, says Nicholas Timmins the options are seriously limited

If you want to cut taxes, one obvious place to start is to cut spending. But bow can the Government impose the Prime Minister's promised "ruthless" spending cuts while maintaining its claim to be the protector of the common wealth, thereby refuting Alan Howarth's damaging accusation? Only with

For since 1979, government spending, far from rolling back the welfare state, has come to concentrate on it. In the year the Conservatives took office, 53 per cent of spending went on beath, education, social security and housing. Since then, spending on council housing and defence has been cut, and money has been raised and costly subsidies ended by selling off the bulk of the nationalised industries. Despite this, the pressure of higher

unemployment and an ageing population, plus the priority given to law and order, have belped ensure that virtually twothirds of government spending goes on the welfare state.

In housing, capital spend-ing has been cut. But the policy of reducing revenue costs by driving up rents has had such a dire effect on the hous-ing benefit bill and on discouraging benefit recipients to take low-paid jobs that the Government has called a halt. Rent increases of 5 per cent a year in real terms are being wound down. And for the first time since 1990, housing associations are not being asked to raise a higher proportion of their capital from private finance - another factor that has been pushing up

In other words, the policy of cutting public spending on housing appears to have run its course unless a U-turn on recent government decisions is to be made.

On health, the Government is pledged to raise real-terms NHS spending each year - a promise Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, was underlining again only yesterday. No cuts there without a broken manifesto promise.

current top priority, and one of three areas (the others were health and law and order) that John Major promised to protect in his speech on Monday night to party agents.

This, in a search for really sub-

stantial cuts, leaves only social security - the £90bn bill that accounts for approaching 30 per cent of all government spending, and is the right's favourite target. Here, Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State, has already been busy. A range of measures, including cuts to Serps, raising women's pension age to 65, introducing the Jobseeker's Allowance and the new invalidity benefit, have cut social security spending by a projected £4bn a year by 2000, and by £14bn a year by the middle of the next century. His approach, in the main. bas been to reduce the numbers entitled to claim, rather than to cut benefit rates. This produces results but far too slowly to allow big tax cuts

before the next election.

The quick fix would be to cut the cash sums paid. But Lilley has resisted that. Current benefits do not let claimants live the "life of Riley", he has said. When people say "come on surely you can cut £5bn from £90bn". Lilley's on-the-record response has been: "Well, £5bn is I million people losing £5,000 a year, or a larger number losing smaller sums, or fewer losing even more. And we don't want to take money away from people for whom it is intended. There's no jus-tification for that."

There is, of course, the drive against fraud - now a cross-party objective. Recent government research suggests there is £1.4bn of fraud a year in income support and unemployment benefit alone – a bil-lion of it accounted for by people claiming while they are working, or claiming to be single while living together. New order books, computers and, in effect, social security identity cards will cut that, probably by several hundred million over two to three years - enough for 0.5p off the standard rate of tax. Serious money, but no panacea: such sums are more than offset by the inevitable upwards pressure from rising numbers of elderly.

So to really cut spending, something radical will have to be done. The options are well known. Child benefit could go, but it is protected by a manifesto pledge. There are school vouchers, which parents would have to top up, but that idea is "rubbish". according to Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary. Tax breaks for private health insurance or charges for hospital stays have repeatedly been ruled out. Loans for student tuition are not even on the agenda, and would be unpopular. Using National Lottery cash for the £300m arts programme is small beer and was ruled out yesterday. Or there is privatising more of social security - industrial ment and invalidity benefit - all of which are difficult and unlikely to produce short-term savings.

The Government is caught in the same box that all governments face: past commitments beavily dictate future spending and there are no short-term panaceas. Labour faces the same difficulty, and its one suggestion to date of a cut is taxing child benefit, something that might save a few bundred million from a £6bn bill.

Good housekeeping, competitive tendering and using private, rather than public, capital look to remain the chief routes to constraining public spending in the short term, unless the

Diary

RORY BREMNER

As the conference season nears its climax with John Major's speech, Glasgow and the Liberal Democrat conference seem years away. Alan Howarth's decision at the weekend to take the fast train from Conservative ranks to new Labour without stopping at the Liberal Democrats must make Paddy Ashdown even more concerned about the significance of his party. As he's travelled the country, gathering in pomposity all the while, the Liberal Democrat leader has been ramming home the message that it's not good enough for his party to be perceived

as irrelevant. It must be perceived as distinctly irrelevant. For his conference speech Paddy seemed to have taken a big leaf out of Harry Enfield's book, adapting the catchphrase of one of Harry's favourite characters ("Is that what you want? Is that what you want? 'Cos that's what'll 'appen). This raises the prospect of other leaders following the trend, from Tony Blair on Tory economic policy ("You don't wanna do it like that, you wanna do it like this") to Mawhinney and Heseltine as the Self-Righteous Brothers, venting their spleen on defecting MPs ("Oil Howarth! NO!")

Meanwhile, at Brighton, the combined effect of Tony Blair's speech and the leadership's firm grip on proceedings induced a form of trance in the Labour Party from which some may have been surprised to wake up on Saturday morning to discover they had voted to keep





Stuck in the middle with you

at this stage is a fulle gesture.

Blair's speech - a version of

Trident. The conclusion must be that Robin Cook believes the party is so

close to power that what is required

which, at a risk of repeating myself, is available at 11.45 tonight on Channel

style of his delivery was bizarre. However, I couldn't help feeling that

John Prescott's triumphal battle-cry of

Four - was impressive, though the

'Move aside - we're on our way!'

memories of Neil Kinnock's "we're

suppose in some ways they are all

Right now, but I'm not sure that's

had changed to a sort of Tory grey (white-with-a-hint-of-capitalism)

managed to infiltrate Newsnight's

brought back uncomfortable

what he had in mind.

demonstrator barracking from the aisle, even Paxman looked rattled, momentarily dropping his superior presentation style in favour of the more demotic "Look, chum ..." As a chastened Eric Cantona returned to centre stage at Old Trafford, the prospect of ooh, ee, Jerem-ee jumping into the audience and drop-kicking an over-enthusiastic fan in the oneand-nines looked a distinct

Brighton Debate last Monday to

remind us how things used to be.

Alan Howarth's defection inevitably adds to the perception of a hapless Conservative Party struggling to keep on course (where to, by the way?) as "events", and its own MPs, continue to conspire against it. As the party machine bauls itself wearily into action on yet another damage limitation exercise, the image irresistibly forms in my mind of the Prime Minister gamely attempting to restore morale by scrapping his conference speech in favour of a moving rendition of "Three Wheels

As it is, Mr Major's widely quoted reaction ("I believe [Mr Howarth] will come to see his decision as a mistake") conjures up a more threatening picture. Imagine the scene: the Prime Minister, his face obscured in darkness, gently stroking the fluffy white cat on his knee. "You disappoint me, Mr Howarth. We had expected better. It saddens me greatly to have to do this to you." (Raises ringed finger.) "Mawhinney, see that our friend is suitably disposed of." Step forward the party's chief henchman to dismiss the whole affair with characteristic scoru as "Much Ado About Nothing".

all-RIGHT!" in Sheffield in 1992. I Notwithstanding that "Loves Labour's Gained" might have been a equally appropriate choice of play. "Much Ado" at least provides the Tories with two possible While Labour's conference backdrop interpretations of Mr Howarth's hehaviour. "He hath a heart as sound as a bell, and his tongue is the clapper; for what his heart thinks, his from last year's strange green (Esu tongue speaks," (Act 3) or,



Howarth: Loves Labour's Gained

alternatively, "Sigh no more, Ladies, sigh no more. Men were deceivers ever; one foot in sea, and one on shore, to one thing constant never" (Act 2). No prizes for guessing which view the party chairman will be favouring this week.

Dr Mahwhinney's comments ("Mr Howarth's reasoning was not only profoundly wrong but bizarre") might equally be applied to the reaction of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, First Secretary of State and MP for Henley-les-deux-Eglises, who said that Howarth was "out of touch with what the public wants". If he really believes that, the already impressive space between Mr Heseltine's new desk and the world

must be even bigger than we thought. As even John Redwood, MP for Pot and Kettleblack, attacks Howarth's disloyalty, and others of the Tory faithful say the result will be an enormous wave of sympathy for Mr Major - a phenomenon which, it must be said, has a knack of winning him elections - 1 fear that we're about to see the Conservatives revert to their least attractive conference mode: swivel-eyed ministers appealing to the xenophobic and the vindictive in another episode of "It'll Be Far Right On the Night". I hope not, I really

hope not.
PS. Pve just watched Portillo's speech. To quote his beloved Wellington: "I don't know what effect these men have on the enemy, but my God they frighten me."



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Michael Portillo's shabby patriotism

ast winter it looked as though this Last winter it looked as along work's Tory conference would be riven from top in toe with bloody dissension over Europe. The expelled Eurorebels were screaming for the Cabinet to rule out ever jnining a single currency and pro-Europeans were warning of the dangers of exclusinn from the mainstream European debate.

Yesterday, across Blackpool, the shrill hysteria of the Euro-sceptics had gone. Their passion has ebbed - not because they are reconciled to elements of the Eurnpean project, hut because they nn longer regard it as an immediate threat. As Norman Lamont revealed in his contribution to the fringe, the nationalists think they are winning the argument. "We are all Euro-sceptics now," he boasted.

And in many ways he is right. What has changed is not the Conservative Party, but the rest of Europe. In the summer the German Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, raised doubts about the ability of several countries to meet the Maastricht criteria. Meanwhile the French President, Jaques Chirac, faces serious obstacles to his policy of shadowing the mark. In these circumstances any move towards greater monetary integration in the near future looks unlikely. The Euro-sceptics thus feel less threatened. The idealistic Euroenthusiasts are slightly chastened, and for the moment - the moderate pro-European politicians feel that they can afford

to include the right wing.
Public attention is shifting to the internal argument over economic priorities; to tax cuts versus public spending. The sound and fury centres on the question of who - if anybody - should pay the price for Tory amhitions to give the middle classes a pre-election bonus. Difficult though this ground is, its lack of any

absolute focus renders it much easier for the Tory high command to deal with - and find some accommodation between the different wings over - than Europe.

The only problem is that some senior Tories are not prepared in sign np to a ceasefire on Europe. Yesterday the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, made it clear that a consensus on Europe is not attractive to him. With no economic union to rail against, Mr Portillo acquired a new enemy: European defence co-operation. After spuriously invoking the dead of two world wars, Mr Portillo constructed a new Aunt Sally - a European superstate giving orders (presumably barked in comic German) to British soldiers. "No way," he

yelled to predictable applause.

In his single-minded pursuit of the longest standing ovation of the conference, Mr Portillo was jeopardising the one area where far greater European co-operation is urgently needed. As events in Bosnia have demonstrated, the Americans are increasingly reluctant to intervene in foreign crises, and the lack of any properly coordinated European action has been sadly evident. We can and must do better if we are to deal with the complex geopolitics of the next century, when the unilateral efforts of small nations will become increasingly irrelevant or counterproductive.

Mr Portillo is happy to build his alternative political base in the party, exploiting any opportunity he can to use the Eurobean issue. That is not a surprise. What is less clear is what the Prime Minister will do about it. If the answer is "nothing", then his willingness to pander to ultra-nationalism may rebound on him. Meanwhile those on the left of the party, already aroused by Alan Howarth's decision to quit, will feel even more uncomfortable in the face of Mr Portillo's crude populism.

Pocahontas and the chain-smoker

The Disney Corporation is displaying the first signs of madness. It seems to believe that there is some connection between its cartoon Native American princess - currently enchanting the personality, who is huried in a churchyard in Gravesend, Kent. To that end it has decided to endow the true Pocahontas's hurial site to the tune of £9,000 - money that will help to buy floodlights for the

In fact the most historically accurate aspect of the Disney character is probahly Pocahontas's friendship with a talking raccoon. She never got off with the settler John Smith (who, far from being a blond surfing hunk, looked a hit like Ronnic Corbett with a false beard) and she was considerably younger than the lithe 18 or 19 depicted in the film. The true princess married a different colonist, John Rolfe, one of the earliest tohacco importers and conceivably the first European to become a chain-smoker.

You can see why the real princess had to be tampered with a little, so as to appeal to the audience of today. A tale of ragged Indians and settlers of unpleasant mien, comfortable with paedophilia and smoking themselves silly on something that made filterless Gauloises taste like perforated Silk Cut, would not sell the books, figurines, dolls and other flim-flam. which between them are netting yet another fortune for the Disney people.

This is not, of course, the first or even the thousandth time that the film industry has tampered with history. Some movies - mostly starring Raquel Welch dressed in furs so revealing that they must nation's children in the blockbuster film have come from tiny prehistoric rodents they have even lost a few million years, in order to allow man and dinosaur to meet. Most - à la Braveheart - have simplified, or exaggerated, the role of heroes in a way that Michael Portillo would heartily endorse. Only a few have sacrificed all audience interest for the sake of

historical exacmess.

But most of these films have been aimed at an adult audience – an audience well able to make the distinction between mythology and reality. Pocahontas, however, has been sold to the world's children as being the story of a real person. Disney's Pocahontas no more existed than did Snow White, Sleeping Beauty or Pinocchio - yet Disney itself is now attempting to co-opt the historical princess, merging true stories with their cartoon shadows. Now conscientious parents throughout Britain will be forced to explain to their

disappointed offspring that it just ain't so. As for Disuey, what next? A sponsored kennels in Sherwood Forest for the descendants of Disney's vulpine Robin Hood? A subsidy for a poisoned apple detector service? A handbook on what to do if your dog gives birth to 101 puppies? Or, better still, a sense of humility in the presence of history. Now that would be magical.

ANOTHER VIEW Lord Gowrie

Art for all our sakes

William Waldegrave, the Chief Sec-retary to the Treasury, is reportedly trying to renege on a promise that money from the National Lottery will never replace existing government arts funding. It appears that he wants to replace such grants with endowments to major arts institutions. A leaked letter indicates that the Secretary of State for National Heritage. Virginia Bottomley is resisting this

Mrs Bottnmley is right to take issue with the Treasury to ensure that lottery money is not used as a substitute for current government responsibilities. Government should be engaged in the arts (even at arm's length) and be committed to the notion of supporting the country's arts and culture. This commitment should be for their intrinsic value and also for the contribution they make to the country's health and vitality, and indeed its

whole economy. Mrs Bottomlev said that the idea of using endowments to fund arts organisations was "not a runner", and I agree totally. Endowments give such poor value: in order to fund the current Arts Council portfolio, well over £2.25bn, at a cautious estimate, would have to be invested - vastly more than the arts are likely to receive from this lottery even by

That estimate covers only those professional arts organisations currently funded by the council. Lottery funds are currently open to all organisations that

need capital investment for arts activities, he they professional or amateur, large or small. It is vitally important that it should continue to be open to all arts organisations, and not only the selected few that

currently receive government subsidy. Endowments can hold no solution to the questions surrounding the funding of the arts. So far the council has given £130m from the lottery funds to 265 organisations. This money is for projects ranging from playground sculptures for a primary school to a full-length feature film, from a new bus for a touring theatre company to a major renovation of an important London theatre. It is gradually making a real difference to communities all over the country. The money is active: it is generating other income from local authorities, business sponsorship and private donations and creating work not only in the acts, but also throughout the design and con-

struction industries. The Prime Minister made the promise last year that lottery funding would not replace existing government spending. The Government must stick to this promise and give the arts a well-earned chance to benefit from this new money, and give the people of this country the arts they deserve and are so good at making - a bequest for the generations of the

The writer is chairman of the Arts Coun-

next millennium.



Not only are banks merging, bank robbers are too

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Crime and punishment: Islamic law versus Western values

From Mr Bassam Alloni Sir: The editorial in today's issue, "The Gulf widens over executions" (9 October), and your reporting of the controversy sur-rounding Filipino maids ("The maid on death row," 9 October) will do little to change the situa-tion in the Gulf to which they refer. Islamic law and the judgments made under Islamic law cannot be compared with entirely culturally different Western values. By Western standards the executions in Saudi Arabia this year may seem shocking, but it must be realised that Saudi is an Islamic country, and as such can-not radically change its judicial

The workings and practices of courts in Islamic countries are so little understood in the West that there is often total incomprehension at the way decisions are reached and cases conducted, tion when the judgments of the courts are carried out. Muslims have a deep respect for their judicial system and a desire to live in an Islamic society, whether this meets with approval in the West or not. It is also worth noting that crime levels in Saudi Arabia are far lower than in the West.

It seems to be forgotten in the hysterical publicity surrounding the isolated cases reported that there are well over 1.5 million Filipino migrant workers in the Gulf. They will contribute much of the \$6bn sent home annually by the 4.2 million Filipino workers worldwide. The impact of the workers in the Gulf is acknowledged by the Filipino Minister of Labour, who visits the region every year to sign further employment treaties. His gov-ernment must be satisfied with

Fighting the same

Sir: While agreeing with some of Professor Robert Winston's views

in the comment section, ("NHS

patients deserve the best," 6

October), may we take issue with

the example he chose to use. Had Professor Winston's aim been to

illustrate, rather than to deni-

grate, then perhaps he would

have been more accurate. The

Assisted Conception Unit at the

Chelsea and Westminster Hospi-

tal, recently licensed by the gov-

ernment-appointed body the Human Fertilisation and Embryo

Authority (HIFEA), is run by four

consultants, each with a special

interest in an aspect of fertility

treatment. Collectively, they have

established and run a fertility

clinic for over 25 years, currently

run one of the most successful

IVF clinics in the country (which

has pioneered several fertility

treatments), and have extensive

experience in reproductive endo-

crinology and male factor infer-

tility. Thus it is not only our

view, but also that of the HFEA,

that this unit has the ability to

provide a truly comprehensive

Sir: I read that Charles I wore the

The tenor of Professor Win-

ston's article reflects the sad state 10 October

first waistcoat on 15 October, 1666 JOHN SHEPHERD

("This is the week that was," 9 Deanscales, Cumbria

fertility service.

Dandy trick

From Mr John Shepherd

foe: infertility

From Mr Michael Pawson

conditions or it would not together with their oilfields encourage so many of its citizens to work in the Gulf.

Of course there are exceptional cases, but they constitute a tiny minority. Such charges, lev-elled against the Gulf, constituting a sweeping and extremely unfair generalisation, will not help the Filipinos, and will not change Islamic law or the desire of Muslim people to live under their chosen jurisdiction. Yours faithfully. BASSAM ALLON Gulf Centre for Strategic Studies London, EC1

From Mr Richard Sockett ·Sir. Your focus on the appelling violation of human rights under the Saudi judicial system, with its mockery of accepted legal norms, offers another shameful reminder of just how far Western governples for economic greed.

Yet apart from the escalating numbers reported by Rohert Fisk (9 October), none of this makes surprising reading if we consider successive Amnesty reports and, as you make clear, sources independent of our own government. But here, alas, is where your suggestions for a solution appear well-intentioned but vastly optimistic.

Your leading article, commendable in many respects, ultimately hinges on a principled view of Western motivation which at present is unlikely to be shared by the Foreign Office, less still by the regime in Riyadh. Privately, neither would be under any illusion about exactly why we dispatched 500,000 troops to defend Saudi "freedom", and any threat to abandon them to Saddam -

that the competitive market in the NHS has reduced us to. The

Assisted Conception Unit was

not set up to make a profit, as implied by Professor Winston, rather it was established because

so many of our patients were hav-

ing to wait for so long for IVF. Until recently this may have been

up to four years on the NHS. This

left them little choice but to go to

private clinics and pay in the

region of £2,000 per treatment

cycle. This both we and our

patients found distressing. We wished to establish a unit

with an empathetic and caring

environment. To this end we plan

to limit the size of the clinic, to

treat only those eligible for NHS care, either funded by their DHA

those working in the Fertility

Clinic at the Hammersmith Hos-

pital as colleagues and friends

with the best interests of patients

at heart and not as competitors.

We would hope that this feeling

is reciprocated.

Yours sincerely

Hospital

London, SW10

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL E. PAWSON

MARK R. JOHNSON

HOSSAM I. ARDALLA

JONATHAN W. RAMSAY

Assisted Conception Unit

Chelsea and Westminster

October). I hope he was not trying to model headwear too, as he was

beheaded some 17 years before.

We would want to regard

or self-funded at "cost price".

would be laughed out of court, even under that judiciary. Worst of all, they'd be right. Yours faithfully RICHARD SOCKETT

London, N22 9 October

From Mr Mervyn Benford Sir. The ambassador for Saudi Arabia, Dr Ghazi Algosaibi (Another View: "We will continue to execute," 10 October) offers a proper and well-argued affirmation of the character of Saudi Arabian society. Not everyone, even in the West, supposes "13 judges ... want to condemn. an innocent person to death". But be conspicuously ignores two significant strands in Robert

Fisk's argument. One is the quality of the evidence available to those 13 judges sionals capable of arguing the case it promotes. The second concerns the independence of a nation's indiciary from its execu-

tive. Would be comment further? "The West" is not the homogeneous society he portrays, any more than we should suppose Arabs or Muslims to be. The West is made up of groups as dis-parate in their individuality as Swedes and Americans, French and New Zealanders. Each will criticise the other. Neither Communism nor nuclear physics, nor even Christianity, has united them. Each contains mdividuals ready and able to condemn our awesome propensity for war and weaponry. None would claim to be perfect but each would claim

integrity and independence for its legal systems.

How the other

From Mr F. M. M. Steiner

Sir: Helen Wilkinson's thoughtful and compassionate article ("Has

love been lost to labour?" 6 Octo-

ber) on women's priorities in

work and personal life, suffers

from one major flaw. It seems to

deal exclusively with middle-class and professional women whose

jobs and careers involve well-paid

work with a high level of joh sat-

isfaction. This is illustrated by her

reference to the allegedly obso-lete "lunch hour". For more than

half the labour force of both

sexes the dinner-break has not

half lunches

Yet even in that, each can be

self-critical. Many Americans now question the integrity of a legal system whose outcomes are so evidently partial and in which the state and its judiciary, if not sanctioning the murder of people

whose guilt is not sufficiently defined, have been too ready to turn the hlind eye to those who do. Here in Britain society is shocked by corruption among police forces in this very matter of evidence. The issue remains not the process but the quality of justice, and of mercy.

either known to be innocent or

Yours sincerely, MERVYN BENFORD Banbury 10 October

From Mr Nicolas Walter Sir. The Saudi ambassador's defence is wrong to claim that sharia "represents the sacred and the access of the accused both word of the Koran". This is only the later traditions, the consensus of even later scholars, and the

continuing process of reasoning

by analogy. For another thing, it is wrong to omit the possibility of progress. Jewish and Christian laws, which were once as drastic as Muslim laws, were reformed by a growing sense of humanity in the area of crime and punishment. This is expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other such texts. which aren't sacred hut surely offer a better basis for justice than the scriptures of ancient religions or the traditions of savage tribes. Yours sincerely,

NICOLAS WALTER Rationalist Press Association London, N1 10 October

disappeared. Where (as in the

case of my son-m-law recently)

the employer shortens it, it is usu-ally in exchange for an earlier end

to the working day. In this setting, where so many women have jobs

and not careers, where the work

is not well-paid and often boring.

you go out to work mainly for the

money, but joh satisfaction is often less than in motherhood -

sometimes even outside mar-

riage. Your contributors and

readers should remember how

the other half lives.

Yours faithfully,

F. M. M. STEINER

From Mr C. Izzard

Deddington,

Oxfordshire

9 October

Man, party or democracy?

From Mr Richard Ensor Sir. In evaluating the recent move of Alan Howarth, MP for Stratford-upon-Avon, from the Conservative Party to the Labour Party, there is a question of loy-alty to consider. Has Mr Howarth done the right thing, choosing loyalty to his social conscience

over his party?

As Britain is a democracy, where constituency members vote for a person (not a party) to represent them at the Houses of Parliament, surely the first loyalty of an MP is to the people of the constituency rather than a party?

Today, Mr Howarth looked tired and sincere. It is difficult to see his move as an act of loyalty for any party. However, he has shown loyalty to his own values and has not been respected by those who expected his loyalty. surely calls to account some Conservatives' attitudes towards the responsibilities of democratic power. In complaining of his disloyalty, some of the party faithful reveal a poor grasp of the nature of democracy, indeed they are hoist by their own petard. Yours sincerely. RICHARD ENSOR

Thurleigh, Bedfordshire 9 October

From Mr Stephen Gould Sir: Brian Mawhinney comments "Tory schisms laid bare by shock decision," 9 October) that Alan Howarth's failure to stand down "deprives the people of Stratford of their representative that they voted for".

THEY

By the same logic, those Tory MPs who were withheld the party whip should also have stood down to allow a by-election to be held. I don't recall any Tory proposing this.

If the vote is for the man, not the party, then Mr Howarth stays. If a vote is for the party, not the man, then the Tories cannot argue against party lists in a PR

Which is it, man or party? Yours sincerely. STEPHEN GOULD London, SW5 9 October

From Mr N. Barn Sir: I note that John Redwood failed to mention Alan Howarth's assertion that "hostile and discriminatory attitudes to foreigners and minorities exist in a wholly unacceptable way in the party". Yours sincerely, N. BARN

Wolverhampton 9 October

Doorstep lore

From Mr Karel Schuck Sir: Has Professor R. A. Burchell (letter, 7 October) never heard of the friendly neighbour who makes sure during one's absence that mail or other articles left on the doorstep and mail visible on the mat through a glass door are

removed out of sight? In our close, there is always somebody taking care of a neighbour's mail, etc., and no burgiaries so far. One cannot, surely, hlame BT for one's own folly.

Yours very sincerely, KAREL SCHUCK Redhill, Surrey October

Sir. 1 was sorry to hear of the recent hurgiary in London N1, a directory possibly providing a chie to the occupant being out of the house. As a responsible directory distributor of the same-edition directory in London NW6. let me assure all your readers that all distributors have strict instructions not to "doorstep deliver".

1 trust the professor contacted British Telecom to complain, BT. in turn, would responsibly follow the chain down through its contracted-out distributors. Yours faithfully, C. IZZARD London, NW9

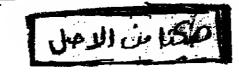
Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Flood of letters

From Mr Sebastian Robinson Sir: John Walsh reports in his diary today (5 October) how he was humiliated by Umberto Eco for not knowing who Robert Flood was,

He needn't worry. Since the Rosicrucian R.F. (1574-1637) wrote under the names Flud Fludd, de Fluctihus, Rudok Otreh, Joachim Frizius and (possibly) Alitophilus, it appears that he didn't know himself who he was.

Yours faithfully, SEBASTIAN ROBINSON Glasgow 5 October



Why single mothers baffle Mr Lilley

Social engineering will not work on lone parents. Moralists calling for cuts may be disappointed

When Peter Lilley stands up today at the Conservative Party conmass revolt followed as fathers refused ference, he will probably take a ritualistic swipe at single mothers as the source and symbol of all modern ills. Right-wing commentators have been calling for cuts in one-parent benefit and one-parent premium. The plethora of conference motions pouring in from the constituencies deploring singie motherhood can hardly be ignored altogether. Yet somehow the mis-

sionary zeal isn't quite what it was. After all, the Government has been through many a hruising episode on this issue since the 1992 conference, when no fewer than seven cabinet ministers stood up in a concerted tirade against this soft target. Now, perhaps, they are older, wiser and sobered by some uncomfortable experiences. It isn't as easy as they thought.

Back to hasics blew up in their face, to the merriment of all beholders. Smgle parents turned out not to be aliens from the lower orders hut within everyone's families, including MPs'. Few families now are not touched at some point by divorce and separation, with a single parent lurking somewhere among relatives. That curious gap between policy and the real world around them has narrowed. The one piece of practical policy designed to make life harder for single mothers has been all but dropped, removing their

so-called priority on housing lists.
Then there has been the fiasco of the Child Suport Agency, still collecting less money than the old system it replaced. Again, it all seemed so easy on paper, chasing the absent fathers to make them pay, instead of the taxpayer who currently forks out some £9bn for

to pay. The inefficiency of an agency impossibly overstretched is still letting them get away with it. The Government's retreat in panic, allowing hundreds of thousands of non-paying fathers to escape, disheartened some of the CSA's strongest advocates. The principle was undemably right. But ministers never anticipated the pas-

sions aroused as the agency became bogged in the mire of bitter divorces. Moral engineering as well as recovery of money was part of the rationale hehind the CSA. Threatening men with heavy maintenance payments was meant to make them hesitate to leave their families in the first place. There is no sign yet that it has had any such effect.

Even so, thinkers of right and left have not altogether abandoned their curious belief that there are levers a government can pull that will radically change people's social and sexual behaviour. Surely there could he tax incentives for people to marry in the first place? The married man's tax allowance should be increased not abolished, some have heen saying loudly. But this goes against current fiscal orthodoxy, and the Chancellor has given no sign that he intends to do anything of the sort.

But the main anxiety is about the million single parents on social security. Surely here there must be something a government can do to make people behave differently? The far right, embodied by the Social Affairs Unit, believes that the benefit system is the cause of all evil. It says there would he no single parents if there



POLLY TOYNBEE

Left and right seek to whip people back into marriage

was no welfare state to sustain them. Women would not dare to conceive outside wedlock, men would feel a moral obligation to marry and support any woman they made pregnant, otherwise they would starve. When John Redwood advocates adoption, this is a kind of unspoken code for the idea that removing benefits would oblige women to hand over any habies that they could not pay for to comples who could. But he dares say no more than that they should be "encouraged".

A parade of single parents from hellhas hit the press in recent weeks; that handful of women with multiple chil-dren by different fathers who see no reason why the taxpayer should not pay. (In fact, on average, single mothers have only 1.7 children and only stay single mothers for an average of four years.) These stories have accompanied a clamour for something to be done, and a beady eye falls upon those benefits targeted specifically on single

Critics are quite right when they point out that the tax and benefit system seems perversely to promote separanon and to encourage iraud. It pays an unemployed couple to part or pretend to part and draw benefit separately. As a result there may be many fewer single parents than figures show. The CSA has uncovered massive frand, with supposedly "absent" fathers still living at home, while

drawing benefit elsewhere.

A ione mother and child on £72.80 benefit gets an extra £5.20 lone parent premium. It is an odd benefit as it assumes there is an extra cost for being ainne when, in reality, women on benefit find having an unemployed man around is more expensive. This premium could be under threat if the Government is looking far something nasty to do. It may be an oddly con-strued benefit, and perhaps should be reassigned as extra for all children on iscome support, regardless of how many parents they have. But to cut it

back would be savage.

Lone-parent benefit has also come under attack in recent weeks, for the same reason that it sounds suspiclously like a reward for bad behaviour. This is paid to all lone mothers not on social security. Its oddity, like child benefit, is that it doesn't go to the poor on income support, while it does go to the richest single mothers, whatever they earn. Its great asset, like child benefit, is that it acts as a ladder out of benefit into work. To cart it (except perhaps for the rich) would be

The Conservative social policy thinker David Willetts has advocated abolishing any special status for single

parents. He would give all mothers income support and child benefit until their children reached the age of five. after which any unsupported mothers would be registered unemployed, and treated the same as anyone else. chivvied into work. He does not think this will happen, however, because of the cost of child care, and the the fact that unemployment figures would rise by a million overnight.

On left as well as right, they search for ways to whip people nack into marriage. Frank Field, Lanour's social security guru, wants to reform the whole system to help single mnth-ers and others to escape the traps and ohstacles that stop them working. But he, too, has some of the same mnral engineering instincts as the right. He wants to convert the luneparent premium into an extra henefit for eouples. Would they have to he married? No, he says. Would they have to be the natural father? No. Any man dragged in through the front door would qualify then? Yes. Is any man really so much better than none? It is the dnuhtful thesis that strongly underlies most thinking on this subject.

However, Peter Lilley has been curiously quiet about single mothers. He may trumpet about the high levels of fraud to be weeded nut, but it is likely to be a cover concualing his inability to satisfy Tory bloodlust. He may know that only child care and better back-to-work incentives are real engines for social change. Those who have been calling for cuts may be disappointed. How much can you cut from £78 a week for a mother and ehild before people starve?

ohligations of a genuinely liberal gov-

To the voter who demands action

because he cannot cope with homo-

sexuality, the response is obvious:

that's your problem, not government's.

To people, like myself, who find the

activities of "outers" and other

extreme gay liberationists repellent,

the answer is equally clear. Abandon

the mad, legally endorsed politicisa-

non of homosexuality and these more

sters can safely be laughed away, they

will have nothing intelligible to say.

They don't have anything to say now,

hut the perversions of contemporary

politics can persuade some people that

There are some problems with this and some issues which I think Sullivan

evades. Cultural resistance to homo-

sexuality is, after all, not simply a ques-

tion of ideology but also of genuine fear. But the overall health of his posi-

tion is novinus. He has an acute seusc

of real as opposed to legally imposeri

freedom. This may be the freedom to

hate and avoid homosexuals, but we are currently free to loathe redheads,

so why nnt? After all, gays are free to

be taken.

they do.

Mozart: the sex, the house party

Athe BBC is one good idea.
It might be Around the World In his pupils were female and Eighty Days. It might be Great Railway Journeys. It might be Pride and Prejudice. But that is all it takes. One great idea. At the moment we think that idea might be Mozart's Pupils."

The speaker is Eric Bosforth, Commissioner-General of the BBC. But what does a Commissioner-General do? And what is Mozart's Pupils all about?

"First things first," says Eric, with the smile of a man who has just seen a narmless long hop coming down the pitch towards him. "Yes, I am the Commis-sioner-General. But you're right, you can't tell from my title what exactly I dn. You never can in the BBC. I have known people spend a lifetime in the BBC with their colleagues naving no idea what their job was. Sometimes they had no idea themselves. Well, am in charge of vetting all incoming proposals and suggestions from independents and outsiders, with a view to

weeding nut the good ones."
And commissioning them? "Oh no," smiles Eric. "It would he terribly expensive to do that. When we find a good idea for a programme sent in from outside, we reject it. Then we make the programme, I'm sorry, I don't quite

What happens is that if we get a cracking good idea, like, say, a series on Mozart's pupils, we write back to the person and say that we are terribly sorry but we are already working on a series along very similar lines. And are you?

"Oh, no. But we don't tell them that. It would be terribly expensive to tell them that. However, we do have a list of titles of almost every conceivable unmade programme in the world, so if pushed to it, we could probably point to un idea errment requires any special action to on the list not walke the one proposed to us, the one which we reject and then use."

Hmm. Well, how did the idea for Mozart's Pupils arrive? What is the idea, come to that?
"Well," smiles Eric Bosforth.

"I got this idea myself, actually. In fact, I got it from a letter sent to us by an independent company somewhere own West." Bath, Bristol, Exeter, some-

"No, I think it was down Ealing way," says Eric, with the air of a man for whom London is the whole country. "The letter said that the last remaining undiscovered area in the field of the great composers was their pupils. Chopin was always falling in love with his. Mendelssohn had some tender friendships. Beethoven had some very serious young men. But Mozart was the one whose pupils were worth examining, if pretty and..."

He trails off into silence, smiling to himself. Then he

seems to come out of a dream. "Anyway, I wrote back saying that sadly we were already working on the idea, and thought no more about it. Then one day I was playing through some Mozart piano sonatas, and noticed a dedication to a Fraulein Sophie somebody, and I thought: Who was this girl? Why do we know nothing about her? This was a girl whose fingers Mozart had touched, whose very body posture he had rearranged, yet we knew nothing about her!" Hold on a moment. Wasn't this exactly the same idea as the one the man from Ealing had

suggested?
"So gradually the idea of a great epic began to emerge," says Eric Bosforth, ignoring me. "Big country house in the landscape. Great reunion of



Mozart's pupils for a weekend. Dedicated to the memory of the great man, Costume drama. BBC at its finest. Production valucs universally praised, even by Victor Lewis-Smith. But when you get a dozen or more beautiful young women for the weekend in a country house, with smouldering male Mozart pupils, there are bound to be fireworks. Passionate fireworks. There we have it. Wonderful music. Sex. Costumes. Intrigue." Hold on a moment. Is this a drama or a documentary?

"There's humour, too, "goes on Eric, waving his hands expansively. "The pupils of Beethoven are holding a reunion nearby and they all get together to throw a party which gets a bit out of hand - great scene that!" But surely Beethoven was too young to ...?

"It's incredibly topical!" cried Eric. "Mozart died in 1791, so his pupils would all have gone through the 1800 celebrations We follow them all as the turn of the century gets nearer and nearer. In the film we see one of them win a fortune on the Viennese lottery, we see another bringing up Mozart's child which she has had by him, we cry and laugh...

At this point two men in white coats burst in and take Eric away, then ask me to leave. as the interview is now over. But I think I have heard enough to make us all very thoughtful.

A new book about homosexuality holds an important lesson about the limits of soundbite debate

Kiss goodbye to gay politics

You don't have to be in Blackpool to know that politics is a small matter, a trivial, self-important sldeshow. You don't even have to be on some American campus or in a Los Angeles courtroom to know how deluded and banal the political debate can become. But you may have to read Andrew Sullivan's Virtually Normal: an argument about homosexuality, to know at by seeing through politics, by ne tralising its stale categories, you might manage to say something human. "Politics," writes Sullivan, "cannot do the work of life. Even culture cannot do the work of life. Only life can do

As "an argument about homosex-



uality" Virtually Normal is sane; as an argument about politics it is radical. Sullivan is a political thinker and yet every sentence is imbued with a sense of the limitations of politics. Indeed, the book might be read as a confession of radical political ignorance, of our complete inability to create rational programmes from the plurality of

Wittgenstein is quoted at the begin-ning - "One can only describe here and say: this is what human life is like" - and Montaigne at the end - "There is no quality so universal here as difference." And, in between these colossi, there is Sullivan agreeing that, even in politics, there is a mystery, an ultimate irrationality which it may be destructive to try and decipher.

But, first, the book is about the politics of homosexuality. Sullivan, a homosexual, is clearly appalled by the way his condition has been politicised, especially in the US. Most of the book is taken up with nn elegant and lucid destruction of the main attitudes involved. He distinguishes four categories: prohibitionist, liberationist, conservative and liberal. Few people, he admits, fall cleanly into any one category, Disturbingly, I recognised fragments of myself in each of the first three, though not, happily, in the

He dismisses prohibitionism on the hasis of its dubious, incoherent theology, and liberationism on the basis of



In yer face: gayness is like having red hair, it should not be a political statement Photograph: Tom Pilston

with the real world. Both are condemned for their underlying insistence that homosexuality is not a distinct condition. The prohibitionists on the hard right insist that it is a personal ehoice and, therefore, it can be said to be morally wrong. The liberationists on the hard left, guided by Michel Foucault, argue that all sexual identities are social and verbal constructs into which we are forced by existing power structures, in order to restrict freedom of expression. Such an ide-ology can justify brutal, revolutionary

action – for example, "outing".
Sullivan's personal experience tells him that his homosexuality is a real, distinct and unchosen condition which it is meaningless to describe either as a choice or a "social construct". Both the hard left and the hard right are, therefore, wrong for the same reason they are wrong about everything else: the world they describe does not exist. The conservatives are given an easier ride, in that their own combination of private tolerance and public dis-

couragement of homosexuality - via,

for example, education or the main-

tenance of a different age of consent

from heterosexuals - is seen to have

a certain consistency. But, says Sulli-

its arid and anarchic failure to engage van, the current refusal of homosexsilence makes the conservatives' posture redundant. Far better to adopt a more dynamic conservative position by supporting the institutional acceptance of homosexuals.

The liberals are most damningly described. Liberalism, says Sullivan, "has come ... in resemble the problem

Homosexuality is debated as if it were welfare spending or foreign policy

it was originally designed to fix". By moving from the moral neutrality of government to the proactive role of encouraging positive discrimination, liberalism has become the new, puritanical conservatism. As it has done with blacks and women, liberalism has consigned homosexuals to the category of perpetual victims and enacted laws to institutionalise this indignity. The old liberal Enlightenment insistence that all that needs to be said is that there are homosexuality, by Andrew Sullivan, is men are created equal has become the homosexuals, and nothing within the published by Picador at £14.99.

new liberal insistence that some must uals to accept the implicit code of be made more equal than others in order to correct any inequalities that arise. The project has failed and it has exacerbated the existing higotry within society. Yet still its damaging terminology poisons political thought.

Sullivan has a theoretical solution and two practical proposals. He wants all discrimination against gays in the military to be removed and gay marriage to he legalised. These measures will simply give homosexuals the same legal status as heterosexuals. And they spring directly from his central theoretical position that all public discrimination against homosexuals should be ended. They should not be treated differently in any way - either as victims by liberal legislation or as aberrations by conservative.

in the American context it is radical. For what Sullivan is really saying is that homosexuality should be depoliticised. Nobody, after all, seriously regards red hair as a political matter, yet homosexuality, in Sullivan's terms an equally contingent phenomenon, is debated as if it were welfare spending or foreign policy. This is absurd - all

gramme has little chance of being adopted. The politics of the day are too corrupted by the media-driven need for public affairs to be conducted on the basis of ideas that are strong. simple and wrong. If you are gay nr black you must be gay or black within the terms laid down by the soundbite debate. No other posture is allowed. Everybody must be flattened to fit in with the mindlessly puritanical demands of Larry King Live.

ordinary laws of public order.

But think of the alternative, as Suilivan does in his final chapter. Think of a politics that humbly acknowledged its innate inferiority to life. Think of a politics that admitted its own incompetence and igunrance.

Think of a politics that genuinely believed in its own rhetoric of freedom Simple and obvious as this point is, and in the maturity of the people to use that freedom. Think nf a politics that accepted that "problems are often more sanely enjoyed than solved", that "there is reason in mystery". And then remember that what we actually have is Blackpool, a place that includes -don't kid yourself - Brighton,

Vatually Normal: an argument about

hate heterosexuals. Anybody who Sponsor a child today takes action on the basis of any of these hatreds can be caught by the Sullivan acknowledges that his proand make a lifetime of difference Ram is just eight years old. The only life she's ever known is one of hunger and poverty. And without help, this is the only lite she'll ever have But sponsor a child through ACTIONAIO, and you an give a child like Ram a better chance in life. You can help provide education - giving her hope of a better luture You can help provide clean water and proper health care improving the health of everyone in the community by Tony Reeve and Steve Way In return for your support, you'll receive a photo and rvessages from the child you sponsor, You'll also see how your money is helping through regular project reports from our field workers. Please sponsor a child, and help a child. Please sponsor a child today. Please send are details about aponeoring a child, or call: 01460 61073. an meested it stursump in Olean I sporeor a child nove, but enclose a gilt of: OESTO OSTO OSSO OSS O:_ Make chances.PDs populate to ACTIONAID and soon to ACTIONAID FREEPOSI

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INDEPENDENT • Wednesday 11 October 1995

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Source: Datastream

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MARKET SUMMARY

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festuring Bay's city from Ago

Bullers calls in receivers

New chocolate chief awaited

Treger demands early Scholl sale

chocolates over the summer.

+\$0.02 16.47 +\$0.50 390.50

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OTHER INDICATORS

IN BRIEF

Rhone-Poulenc Rorer consolidated its grip on hid target Fisons yesterday after picking up a further 18.6 million shares to take

its holding to 20.9 per cent. The new shares, all acquired at the

raised hid price of 265p, included the entire 9.8 million holding of Sun Life of Canada. The latest deal follows a string of

large disposals by institutional shareholders since the hid be-

gan. RPR said acceptances of the offer covered 0.27 per cent

Ballers, the film editing to fire surround group, has called in the receivers after being overwhelmed by debts of around £4.5m. The news marks the end of the struggle by chairman David Cunningham to turn the company round. Mr Cunningham sold part of his stake at prices of 12.5p and 15p earlier this year, but on

3 October shares were suspended at 1.25p. Grant Thornton, the receivers, are already in talks about selling parts of the business.

Thorntons, the chocolate maker and retailer, said it was ready to appoint a new chief executive after reporting a £1.6m fall in

profits to £10.5m for last year. The unnamed candidate will come aboard in January. David Mitchell, the previous UK managing director, has already left. After a disappointing Christmas, the

company hlamed the hot weather for a reduction in demand for

Julian Treger, one of the dissident shareholders in Scholl, the

footwear company, said he will withdraw his demands for an

extraordinary general meeting if the company appointed an in-

dependent merchant bank to seek offers for it. In a letter to Gor-

don Stevens, the Scholl chairman, Mr Treger said he would love

to direct potential hidders to the company because this would maximise value for all shareholders. Mr Stevens said yesterday

that the dissidents had failed to respond to an earlier reques

Shares in Trafficmaster fell 22p to 179p as it reported a dou-hling of losses at half-way to £1.12m. The company, which has

launched an in-car monitoring system to avoid traffic jams, said

to supply the company with details of alleged bidders.

Trafficmaster losses exceed £1m

the losses were expected because of start-up costs.

AEG sheds component business

of Fisons' shares as of Monday. The shares fell 0.5p to 263p.

Rhone-Poulenc tightens grip on Fisons

244.14 +£1.67 246.34 Base Rates = 6.75pc 5.25 -

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nes at 1500 bours. Dow lones graph at 1330 hours

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CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2548 fax 0171-293 2098

Markets in turmoil: Worries over faltering US profits push prices down on Wall Street and in London

Recovery fear sends shares diving

tom stevenson and MICHAEL MARRAY

Share prices plunged on both sides of the Atlantic yesterday to some of their worst levels in months. In London an estimated £13bn was wiped off the value of UK companies at one stage as the stock market slumped almost 70 points before

rallying.
On Wall Street, a wave of selling pushed the Dow Jones index down more than 60 points as Americans worried about falling profits from a stumbling recovery. UK investors were reacting to a growing sense of

crisis within the Conservative Party - and the Wall Street fall. The Footsie was off 67.8 points by mid-afternoon. Although the index recovered, it still closed 50.2 points down at 3460.1.

Share prices on Wall Street fell sharply yesterday morning in heavy trading, as what began as investor jitters over the prospects for technology stocks widened into an across-the-board sell-off. For the second day running New York Stock Exchange limits on program trading came into effect, triggered by a near 65-point drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Avrage shortly after the opening

By lunchtime the market had recovered some ground, but the Dow was still down by 37.21 points at 4689.01, and the Nasdaq composite index, which was 20 points down in early trading, stood at 970.90 for a loss of 13.84 points.

Market strategists played down the significance of yesterday's movement, "It's this absurd situation, with the UK marked down ahead of an expected plunge on Wall Street. Then after the close the Street bounces back" one said. But he warned that any recovery later in the week would depend on how the markets reacted to key speeches from the Chancellor and Prime Minister in Blackpool. 15 per cent expected recently. Another strategist described the fall as an over-reaction, Steve Wright, the firm's UK blaming a dearth of the takeover equity analyst, believed that news that has huoyed the mar-. figure could retreat even further

ket over the summer. But he to maybe 8 per cent. said hids and a wave of consol-Analysts said markets might idation in financial services had normally be expected to bounce back today but forecast contindistracted from poor market fundamentals - recent weakness ued uncertainty ahead of key in the gilt market following the speeches tomorrow and Friday red auction, poorer than from Kenneth Clarke and John expected economic figures and Major, as well as inflation figures expected to edge higher. a worsening outlook for cor-

porate earnings.
The consensus from BZW's The recent weakness of the New York market again fo-cused on bearish sentiment in sector analysts now points to

share price, pence

share price index

earnings growth this year of the highly rated technology sec-11 per cent, compared with the tor. Poor results from Motorola, the computer chip manufacturer, and a gloomy report from the Semiconductor Industry Association sparked fears of a sell-off in the sector that has largely driven the rise in Wall Street this year.

Many analysts view the correction in the technology sector as overdue, and also point out that the broader market enjoyed its fastest run-up since 1987 durthe first three quarters of 1995. They have been expressing caution since early summer,

Microsoft's Windows 95 operating system, and the market frenzy over offerings such as Netscape. Its share price more than doubled on its first day of trading in August. Hi-tech stocks did not fare so well m September, but the past few days have seen the first signs of panic selling by small investors. who have so far appeared blind

to the risks in the market. Investors in the US are also becoming increasingly exercised about third-quarter earnings figures due in November, which analysts believe will dis-

the hype over the launch of appoint compared with the impressive first and second quarter numbers.

This week's sell-off was triggered in part by Friday's announcement from Novell that its fourth-quarter earnings would fall well short of analysts' expectations, as a result of weak sales in its applications software products, which include Word-Perfect. Novell said weak third quarter sales were going to get worse in the current quarter. This announcement was made after close of trading on Friday, but was picked up on Monday

Construction cutbacks threaten 20,000 jobs

The construction industry yesterday warned of thousands more job losses as official figures pointed to a continuing slowdown in the sector. New UK construction orders fell 2 per cent in the three months to August compared to the previous three months - prompting an attack on the government's private finance initiative for delaying recovery.

The figure was an 8 per cent decline on the June-August period in 1994, according to provisional, seasonally adjusted figures from the Department of Environment. The figures show that orders for private housing in the third quarter of 1995 fell by 19 per cent against the same period in 1994. New orders for public housing fell by 8 per cent, while other public building works dropped by 12 per cent compared with a year ago.

Confidence in the level of construction work for the future has reached a new low," said

veyors. "These figures are bad news for those employed in the construction industry, hat also have serious implications for the economy as a whole.

If, as we predict, 100,000 jobs are to be lost from the industry over the next 2-3 years, the Exchequer stands to lose as much as £1bn in increased social security payments and lost гечепие. The Building Employers' Confederation warned yester-

day that up to 20,000 jobs could be lost over the next six months as the industry slumps into a new recession. The organisation estimates that 480,000 building jobs have gone since 1990. Paul Shepherd, chairman, attacked the government's private

finance initiative (PFI) which requires all public sector projects to be market-tested. He said the PFI had delayed and reduced

The gloom was underlined by the National Council of Build-

Richard Houghton of the Royal ing Material Producers, whose Institution of Chartered Sur-survey published yesterday showed that members bad put back expectations of recovery to 1997. The BMP - with around 2,000 members - said 78 per cent of respondents were not working at satisfactory levels. In the spring, over half had re-ported satisfactory volumes.

The BMP forecasts a two per cent drop in UK construction output this year, with a 0.5 per cent decline in 1996 compared with 2.5 percent growth forecast previously. The survey revealed a "picture of disaster" in the industry and blamed government failure to help the housing market, "dithering" on interest rate policy and confusion over the PFI.

The three employers' groups called for action in next months budget to stimulate construction activity. Mr Houghton said: The government could afford to spend an extra £500m on urgently needed social housing, creating jobs without inflationary pressure."

Murdoch offers grim message

MARY FAGAN

Rupert Murdoch, chairman of the News Corporation, warned them. It's not just them ... that newsprint prices could rise by 10 per cent over the next 12 months, costing the group Aus\$350m in the year.

Speaking at the group's agm, Mr Murdoch also refused to rule out a future joint venture with BT - the subject of speculation at the weekend - but said that at present there are no discussions "on the rope".

Rumours erupted at the end of last week that Mr Murdoch was in talks with the BT chairman, Sir Iain Vallance, con-cerning co-operation in the "information superhighway". BT denied any such discussions but Mr Murdoch said yesterday: "We have a joint venture with their partner MCI in North and South America

and we would out rule out a similar joint venture in Britain and we are certainly lonking with we're all talking.

The agm also approved the recently appropried alliance with MCL the US company in which BT has a 20 per cent stake. Under the deal, MCI will take a stake of up to 13.5 per cent stake in News Corporation for up to US\$2bn and has first refusal on buying the Murdoch family stake in the event that they decide to sell. The media chief warned that

he expects flat to slightly lower earnings in the three months to September, adding that he does not expect higher dividends in the future for shareholders.

"We have built this companyin 40 years from being a couple of bundred thousand dollars to being worth \$20bn by pouring



Newsprint warning: Rupert Murdoch addressing News Corporation's agm in Adelaide yesterday Photograph: Greg Adams/Reuter

back the profits into it. Basically I think any sharebolder will tell you, it has been a capital growth play. It has not been a dividend play," he said.

Shares in News Corporation fell by 12p to 324p on Mr Murdoch's newsprint predictions. "Paper costs are a worry and it is going to be some time before this turns

around," But be remained bullare expected to rise in the year to June 1996. Mr Murdoch said:

paper position in Britain. We see ish about the UK, where profits growing profits ... if we increase our share of the market and manage to get even more com-"We have great faith in our news- petitive and even more efficient."

High street banking: rivals forced to consider future strategy □ directors' payouts may reach £9m in dividends and options

Lloyds merger forces rethink

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

Lloyds Bank will announce the details of its proposed merger Panel intervenes in Aran bidding with TSB this morning, driven by the prospect of £3bo of cost savings and increased revenues. The Takeover Panel has demanded clarification from Statoil, the state-owned Norwegian firm, over whether it intends to bid The emergence of this new for Aran Energy. The panel was concerned at reports suggest-

banking giant is forcing an ur-gent rethink right across the ing that Statoil would definitely hid for Aran, the subject of a £180m hostile attack by Arco of the US. Statoil has now made financial services sector, as clear that it is considering an offer but is in no way committed. Areo has asked the panel to set a timetable for any Statoil bid. banks, building societies and in-surers accelerate plans for cost cutting and acquisitions. The Banking Insurance and

Finance Union warns that 5,000 to 10,000 jobs will go over the next few years as a result of the deal. Some City analysts think that even more - up to 20,000 will go over the next five years. The estimated £15bn market value of Lloyds TSB is reached

only on the expectation of a tor and the corporate sector at £3.5bn valued on the same baearnings growth. Lloyds' current market capitalisation is £9bn. that of TSB £4bn. With £1bn being handed back to shareholders in the form of the special dividend under the merger terms, a £3bn jump in value is:

being factored in by advisers. Barclays and NatWest now face stark choices on where they go from here. Both are heavily committed to the big corporate sector, where Lloyds is a medium player and TSB nowhere. Increasingly they deal with their big corporate clients through their investment bnaking arms. and these operations have required huge investments.

The question is whether they

can succeed in the personal sec-

massive £3bn gain from sub-stantial cost cutting and new the same time. They are com-peting with ever larger personpeting with ever larger person-al financial groups like Lloyds TSB, as well as pure investment banks like the giant Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley. There is also a question mark

over Abbey National. It was the first building society to convert to bank status in 1989, and is now buying National & Provincial. Even so, analysts question whether it is big enough, or whether it might in turn become a bid target, a predicament also faced by the Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester.

Similar problems confront the Bank of Scotland and Roy-al Bank of Scotland, Both could easily be snapped up by, say HSBC. Analysts reckon Bank of Scotland would cost around sis as TSB in the Lloyds merger, while Royal Bank would cost. around £4bn or more. There would, however, he strong protests from Scottish public opinion if their banks were ac-

quired by one from London. The insurance companies could also enter the fray. Many have examined the idea of buying a bank network through which to sell their products. BAT, the tobacco and financial services conglomerate, always had its eye on TSB, and may look elsewhere in the sector now that it has been thwarted. Standard Life aircady owns

one-third of the Bank of Scotland. This is seen as an obstacle to any potential bidder for the bank - hut may also tempt the insurer to make a full bid.

Source: latest annual report.

Phantom options to give TSB executives £1.7m

PETER RODGERS and NIC CICUTTI

Four executive directors of the TSB stand to make £1.7m from 'phantom" share options that can be exercised from next February onwards. This is in addition to conventional share options held by the board that could bring profits of about £9m and take their total benefits to nearly £11m before tax at last night's share price.

Experts said the six directors would automatically be entitled to £7.4m, which they can take immediately. The remainder of the £9m, together with the phantom options, are likely to be subject to negotiations as the exercise dates have not yet arrived. Directors who stay on may also decide not to take their full entitlements but instead transfer them into a new benefits package in the merged

The phantom options, granted in 1993, are cash bonuses linked to the growth of TSB's share price above a base line of 143p, compared with last night's close of 353p. They provide the same profit as a conventional option without the need to huy any shares.

Peter Ellwood, the chief executive, would be eligible for a

payment of £604,000, John Burns for £402,000, John Elbourne for £424,000 and Michael Fairey for £265,000. These four board members, to-gether with two others - Hugh Freedberg and the chairman Sir Nicholas Goodison - are also set to make a £5.66m pre-tax profit on conventional share op-

Sir Nicholas leads with £1.42m, taking his total potential reward to nearly £2.3m, followed closedly by Mr Ellwood with £1.3m, hringing him a possible total of £2.7m.

These figures are based on options listed in the most recent annual report, for 1994. TSB refused to say whether there had been any change in the number of options held by directors since the end of the 1994 financial year. The directors are also in line for a further £1.777m, assuming they exercise their options and receive the special dividend of 68p a share promised as part of the merge er terms.

The executive members of the board also have a series of other options that they can exercise from various starting dates over the next four years. with the first in March next year. These are showing a paper gain of £1.7m.

General Electric of the US has bought AEG's low-voltage components businesses from Daimler-Benz for DM320m (£142m). AEG, Germany's second-largest electronics group, has sold or shut down many of its loss-making activities in the last four years.

The bonanza awaiting TSB executive directors eciai divident Paper profit: other options First year other Phaeton @ 689 JA Burns 975,000 290,000 178,000 1996 402,000 JK Ebourne 900,000 278,000 257,000 96 98 424,000 PB Elwood **1.3**m 424,000 360,000 96-97 604,000 ME Fairey 81,000 96-99 24,000 378,000 265,000 HR Freedberg 990,000 325.000 110,000 96-97 N Goodison 1.40 420,000 96-99 436,000 1.777m 1.703m 5.660m 1.695m Figures in £, based on 350p a share (last right's close). Excludes options exercised or granted Phantom Options: Share price related cash bonus scheme. Exercisable from February 1998

"Signs of economic

slowdown have been

there for all to see

since early summer.

corporate earnings

deteriorating, with an

ever-lengthening list

of profits warnings

and gloomy trading

statements"

The outlook for

too seems to be

INDEPENDENT - WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 1995

business

Shaky equities set to slide despite takeovers The only thing holding up the London stock market for some time now has been spectacle of UK plc being gobbled up in big panies such as Tate & Lyle are placing each nomic and micro-policy level.

the nectic pace of bid activity. As yesterday's events showed, even this has become insufficient to the task. Though the takeover frenzy shows few signs of abating, the market seems set on correction mode.

The surprising thing is that it didn't happen earlier. Signs of economic slowdown have been there for all to see since early summer. The outlook for corporate earnings too seems to be deteriorating, with an ever-lengthening list of profits warnings and gloomy trading statements.

As if this were not enough, the failure of the Government's gilts auction should have sent out a siren warning of things to come. Once the final prop of Wall Street was removed, the downward shift became inevitable. The FT-SE 100 share index was 67 points off at one stage, taking its fall from the peak in September to more than 4 per

Has it got further to go? Serious correc-tions usually take around 10 per cent off the market so the answer is very possibly yes. Sentiment is being increasingly influenced by politics and bere the outlook hardly inspires confidence. The Tory Party conference is off to a disastrous start and the numbers the Chancellor bas to play with in the forthcoming Budget look as uncertain as

cost-cutting mergers and acquisitions is for many a repugnant one.

The Lloyds takeover of TSB alone is likely to lead to the loss of up to 20,000 jobs, although you will not bear Sir Brian Pitman. chief executive of Lloyds, admitting to this when he announces details of the merger today. The Government needs headlines of this sort like it needs a bole in the head. However strong the pull of Michael Hesel-tine's "anything goes" mergers policy, you'd have to be away with the fairies to believe it will go on forever. The end may indeed be quite soon.

And if that goes, then the market begins to look highly vulnerable. Nick Knight, equity strategist at Nomura, may be right after all with his year-end prediction for the

Tories push business into arms of foes

It comes as a shock to realise bow far the political landscape has changed for business over the last 12 months. With Tory MPs demanding windfall taxes and Labour yesterday promising to work hard in partnership with industry to create defence There are other worrying straws in the wind too. Eventually the Government is stock prefer Michael Portillo or Dr David

way bets by splitting their political donations between the parties, and managers everywhere are suppressing their instincts by looking sympathetically at what Labour has to

A survey by the Institute of Management found 54 per cent of respondents felt the Government had lost touch with the needs of business and 83 per cent approved of Tony Blair's belief in a closer partnership between government and business.

For anyone who remembers the CBI's promise in 1981 of a bare knnckle fight with Margaret Thatcher's government, the pre-sent tension between big business and the Tories is nothing new. The irony is that Michael Heseltine changed things for the better in his three years as President of the Board of Trade. He really cared about business and actively pursued many of the ideas

Labour is now trying to cannibalise.

The problem is that with business, as with so many parts of the Government's natural constituency, the Tories have simply failed to deliver on their promises. In the blitzed construction industry, which is gasping for public sector work, the failure of the private finance initiative to fill the spending gap adds insult to injury. Furthermore, the Heseltinedriven new sensitivity to the needs of industry coincides with Labour's own policy reformation, to the point that the similarities are now much more pronounced than

Look at benchmarking, which Howard Davies, the new deputy governor of the Bank of England, refers to as the best recent idea to come out of the DTI. This is a govern-ment-aided exercise to measure the best international standards in a given industry and pass on the secret to those who are not so good, to drag up their performance. It is intervention, and its pedigree can be traced back to the National Economic Development Office that the Tories killed, but it is also cheap and effective. These days we hear as much about benchmarking from Labour as from the Tories.

Business leaders are still oot convinced Labour means what it says. But the Government is saddled with the fact that for business there is at last a credible opposition.

US-style bank mergers not easily exported

Whether it be rollerblading or monster bank mergers, fashionable waves that begin in the US tend eventually to break over Britain and Europe. The Lloyds/TSB plan to combine forces to bestride the domestic financial services sector could well be the catalyst for an accelerated series of takeovers and mergers. Banks across Europe are

solidation in US banking - a combination of capital heaped in the coffers, and an increasingly fierce battle for husiness in a ma-

ture market with limited scope for growth.

The pace of consolidation in the US has to a large extent been driven by deregulation, hreaking down the legal barriers keep-ing regional banks apart – an element that is not present over here. But the competitive pressures in an overbanked market, with too much capital chasing too little business, are the same.

The US preference for share buy-backs as a way of banding back excess capital to sharebolders bas had limited resonance over here. Barelays bas had a first, timid go, but few of its competitors appear minded to follow suit. They are too concerned about keeping the chequebook ready for a big spend. But while the pressures for domestie consolidation remain intense, it is questionable whether the American merger wave will break with any force un a pan-European scale.

Just as investment hanking is increasingly an international business, so retail banking remains fundamentally domestic, rooted in specific cultures, languages and national structures. Just look at the weak English banking penetration of Scotland, never mind the woeful experiences of British retail forays on the Continent. There may well come a time when European hanking grappling with very similar pressures to the ones that have been driving the surge of conforces of consolidation are nationally driven. mergers become attractive, hut for now the

Utilities: Regulator champions consumers with demand for companies to open accounts

North West Water poised to step up Norweb fight

MARY FAGAN Industrial correspondent

Nurth West Water is poised to launch a second renewed offer for the electricity firm Norweb, worth up to £12 per sbare if tax credits are taken into account. The water firm, which yesterday raised £140m through a rights issue and share placing, is thought to be considering adding a special dividend of about 50p lo its existing offer of £10.75, or just over £11 in cash and shares.

North West, which is fighting Texas Energy Partners of the US for control of Norweb, declined to comment on whether or how woch it might hid. But City and alysts believe the offer of an extra 50p special dividend – which carry a tax credit of 125p-will

come by the end of this week.

The partie for Norweb in-

launched an increased offer of businesses and by the potential also want to see that there is no £10.85 per share, valuing Nor- for takeovers in the utility sec- cross-subsidy, either in a fi-£10.85 per share, valuing Norweb at £1.74bn. Texas, a partnership between Houston Industries and Central and South West Corporation, also made it clear it was prepared to consider another counter attack. Texas, which has yet to issue its offer document, has said North West's bid is overshadowed by

regulatory risks and by the wa-

ter firm's lack of experience in

the electricity industry.

Speculation over North West's next move intensified as Ofwat, the water industry watchdog, called on companies to explain dividend payous to the public and to share any benefits from increased efficiencies equally between customers and shareholders.

tor, including the bid by North West Water for Norweh.

He said customers should be told how much of the dividends paid to shareholders come from the water and sewage services they pay for. Mr Byatt said: "Accounts are

not simply for the City, The water companies should explain to their customers and to the public generally what returns they have made in the regulated water businesses and what they intend to do with them. There is inadequate debate on the profits made in the regulated business, the trends in its costs or on its financial returns."

Mr Byatt added: "You are omers and shareholders.

probably going to see more sensitivity [among the utilities].

The Byoth disconsistence of utilities hecoming part of a For the last live years the share-Ofwat, said his concern is fu- larger group and regulators bolders have benefitted at the elled by the steady diversifica- will want to see the regulated expense of customers. Now he tion of the companies away business deliver what it ought is trying to redress the baltensified last week, when Texas from the core water and sewage to within its pricing limits. We

nancial sense or in transfer of goods and services within a parent group. They already have to account to me for the basis of their dividends. What I want now is for the companies to explain to the public what is going on." He demanded they start with the interim reporting

season, which begins with

Thames Water's half-year re-

sults on 31 October.

A City analyst said: "This is a veiled threat to the companies not to announce big dividend increases unless they can prove that they are covered by the non-core parts of the operation. He does not want to see big payouts at a time of particular



lan Byatt: What I want now is for the companies to ection or to estimate how much for a trial after taking into acexplain to the public what is going on'

Court bars Baring bondholders' case

DAVID HELLIER

The Barings bondholders were yesterday told that they could not put their arguments to the magistrates' court about the Serious Fraud Office's decision to take over and then drop their private prosecution of Nick Lesson, the former Barings futures trader.

Although the bondholders were heard in part yesterday the court ruled that their full arguments were inadmissible.

However, the City of London magistrates' court decided that t needed to hear evidence from Mr Leeson's lawyers, who were unable to attend yesterday's meeting, before it could decide whether to agree to the SFO's request for a withdrawal of the summonses against Mr Leeson.

The court adjourned until tomorrow when there will be a brief hearing to allow Mr Leeson's legal representatives either Photograph:FT | time they will need to do so. | count all the arguments.

Last night the bondbolders, who lost millions of pounds in the Barings dehacle, were deciding whether to take their opposition to the SFO's move to the High Court.

Last month the bondholders laid eight summonses against Mr Leeson before the court and bad them accepted. Their pros-ecution could have resulted in Mr Leeson having a trial in the UK. However, the director of the SFO, George Staple, then wrote to the bondholders telling them of his intention to take the

case over and drop it.

Michael Hill, QC, representing the bondholders, told the court yesterday that his clients were given a peremptory demand from the SFO to provide its director by noon on the following day with the evidence on which the bondholders were basing their case.

Jonathan Caplan, QC, argued for the SFO that the director to present objections to the had decided that Singapore

Prosecution ends its marathon

NIC CICUTTI

The prosecution in the case against Robert Maxwell's sons, Ian and Kevin, accused of swindling the media empire's pen-sion funds, concluded yesterday after a marathon 77 days of court hearings and 69 witnesses.

During more than four months of complicated testimony, prosecutors have led the jury of seven women and five men through a welter of docu-ments displayed on computer terminals and a large television

Both brothers, together with Larry Trachtenberg, a former Maxwell director, are alleged to have conspired to illegally risk the assets of the funds to raise cash for the ailing dynasty.

Halfway through the prose-cution case, Judge Nicholas Phillips dismissed the jury from returning a verdict on another Maxwell director, Robert Bunn, after he suffered a heart attack. During testimony the court

The Nobel committee's decision

tn award its economics prize to

Professor Robert Lucas of the

University of Chicago will

arouse far less controversy than

Professor Lucas, the fifth

University of Chicago eco-

nomics professor to win the

prize in six years, transformed

macro-economic analysis. In

the course of a few years, from

1976 to 1982, he set in train one

of the rare revolutions in eco-

nomic thought. His hypothesis

of "rational expectations" pro-

vided the theoretical under-

pinning for the resurgence of

The theory boils down to

the beautifully simple idea that

economic agents - whether in-

dividuals negotiating wages, investors buying bonds or companies making investment

plans - do not systematically get

their furceasts wrong. On av-

crage, people will get their pre-dictions of inflation, in particular, about right. And

they definitely will not be wrong

more often than governments. Professor Lucas's insight

free market economics.

the work he won it for.

DIANE COYLE

in Washington

The Maxwell Trial

heard bow Robert Maxwell acted as a one-man investment manager who made decisions

for the pension fund alone. Witnesses described him as an overbearing and domineering tyrant who browbeat his sons and employees.

He was "extremely demand-ing and doubly so to Kevin and Ian", said Trevor Cook, who ad-ministered the Maxwell pension funds. "I wouldn't say that there was a definite atmosphere of fear but we would incur his

Bankers, accountants and

swept the profession like wild-

fire. It meant, for instance, that

economists could no longer de-fend the idea that by inflating

the economy a government

could permanently reduce un-employment. With rational ex-

pectations, workers will swiftly

adjust wage claims to compen-

sate, returning unemployment to its original level.

Economists who did not ap-

ply rational expectations in

their own work had to start out

by rebutting it - for example, by

suggesting wage contracts pre-

vented the rapid adjustment of

vages to inflation expectations.

As well as an elegant theory,

Professor Lucas, born in 1937.

has a charisma rare in profes-

sional economists. His provok-

ing lectures at Chicago and

elsewhere in the US caught the

imagination of a generation of

graduate students at the turn of

They swiftly went on to

spread the rational expecta-

tions revolution, which had the

side-effect of making the sub-

ject more mathematical. This

occurred even though empiri-

cal evidence refuting the theo-

the last decade.

lawyers gave details of Maxwell's private and public companies, together with their spiralling dehts and severe cash

"I suspect this was a Guinness Book of Records excess overdraft position," said Robert Brown, a corporate banking executive from Maxwell's main bank, National Westminster.

Other witnesses told about confusion over the ownership of the shares in the Israeli companies Teva and Scitex, which form the basis of the case.

Robert Maxwell's Israeli lawyer testified that Kevin told him he was working on a rescue deal with a mystery investor after his father died.

However, senior executives from Lehman Brothers, the Wall Street firm, laughed about reports that someone was willing to invest £400m to rescue the group.

Mr Richard Lissach QC for-

mally closed the Serious Fraud Office prosecution at the Old

Nobel applauds economic revolutionary

Bailey yesterday with an agreed biography of Mr Trachtenherg, a US citizen and father-of-two, who has lived in Britain since

The court beard that he held degrees in politics and international relations, in which he lectured, but had no "financial or

accountancy qualifications". Together with a partner, Mr Trachtenberg formed Global Analysis Systems in 1985. Mr Lissach described the company as an on-line information service, offering corporations advice on political risk around the

The court heard that GAS was bought by Robert Maxwell in 1987. The following year Mr Trachtenberg joined one of the tycoon's companies, London and Bishopsgate International Investment.

The jury is not expected to be in court until Monday next week, when Kevin is expected to give evidence in his defence. The trial continues on Monday.

As well as an elegant theory, Robert Lucas has a

Photograph: Reuter

breathed new life into macro-

of his revolution could in the

end prove to be the fatal de-

tatchment of economic theory

economic theory. But the cost

charisma rare in his profession

the evidence stand in the way

revolution and its powerful

Even the fiercest critics of the

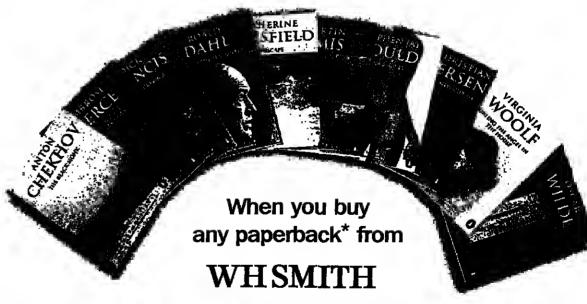
of a powerful theory.

Economists are reluctant to let cept that Professor Lucas from real life.

ry swiftly hegan to accumulate.

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

More selective appetite at St Ives keeps City satisfied

A 1980s spending spree left St Ives with a nasty bout of indigestion in the early 1990s. But the printer's relative abstinence since then has helped acquisitions to bed down well to create a low-cost, quickturnaround printing operation with substantial shares of the markets in which it operates.

It is a formula that continues to please the City. Yesterday's 31 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £35.5m for the year to July, after stripping out the £4.93m exceptional loss on disposals in 1994, was at the top end of expectations. That helped to send the shares strongly against the market trend yesterday to record an 11p rise to

Despite the 11 per cent increase in turnover last year, it has hardly been a boom period for St Ives. Books, where the group has about a fifth of the UK market, suffered from flat conditions for paperbacks, which were only saved by a £7m contract to print the Penguin 60s celebration

Likewise, it was a dull year for financial work. With close to 20 per cent of the highsecurity husiness that accompanies every hig City deal. St Ives suffers when transactions are low, as in 1994-95.

Luckily the broad spread of the business helps to make up for laggards elsewhere. Magazine production volumes grew with higher pagination and new titles, including eight wins from IPC, which will go a long way to filling the capacity of the new third press at the Caerphilly plant. Mean-while, the recovery in the US, where profits jumped from £185,000 to £1.67m, continues apace. The problems of two years ago, when medical printing work fell away under the impact of the administration's health reforms, now look a thing of the past as management focuses on profitable work.

The outlook for the existing business looks set fair. Financial work, led by the outbreak of bid frenzy in the electricity sector, should be on course for a good halfyear at least. Meanwhile, the final demise of the net book agreement will probably on balance benefit St Ives' customers, the hig publishers of mainstream books.

But perhaps of more relevance to the shares is what St Ives does with its cash pile. Net cash is expected by analysts to be back up at £26m by the year end, despite the total £22m cost of Johler Druck, the German printer acquired in August and capital expenditure of £29m this

Miles Emley, the chairman, has been commendably cautious in making acquisitions since his arrival from Rothschilds in 1993. Druck, which made £2.3m last year, looks a good start in Germany and more buys are likely to follow both there and in the US. Profits of £41.5m would put the shares on a prospective p/e of 15. Still

Market wary of **Lloyds Chemists**

Lloyds Chemists, Britain's second-biggest pharmacy chain. has a serious credibility problem. Despite profits broadly in line

			14m, sha			200	4 - 10	-
Five-year record		991	1992		1993	799		1995
Turnover - Em:		A TOP	200	P.	221	287	7 - 12 (A)	264
Pre-tax profits (Em)	٠. ١	20.2	21.1		22.1	22.3	60.	35.5
Ентины пак якине (ролск			1152	Y	15.24	118.6		25 .4
Dividends per share (pence)	5.0	5.25		55	6.4		8.5
Operating profit	(by n	egion)		Sha	re pr	ce		

months ago, profits rose 5 per cent to

£63m, although the one-off charge and

higher interest payments resulted in a

fall in reported profits before tax from £58.3m to £42.2m.

The confidence of Lloyds' man-

agement was reflected in a 7 per cent

rise in the dividend to 10.2p, the

ninth consecutive rise. Its optimism was

driven by good results from the

chemist operation, Holland & Barrett,

But there is no getting away from

the problems facing the loss-making

Supersave drug store division. A prof-

it of £1.3m in 1994 was reversed into

a loss of £3.7m, the majority of which

occurred in the second half. That

would not be so worrying if the plan

to convert a third of the chain into Hol-

land & Barrett stores or a new health

and beauty format as part of the

3.66p (2.85p)

72.6p (27p)

2.1p (2.54p)

0.01p (0.29p)

14.7p (13p)

-5.1p (-3.6p)

2.51p (2.88p)

Dividend

0.8p (0.6p)

6p (n¥)

0.8p (0.8p)

0.7p (0.5p)

0.25p (0.25p)

1.5p (1p)

(一)

24.36p (18.46p) 8.5p (6.4p)

7.6p (7.15p)

1.3p (1.3p)

12.39p (11,01p) 3.05p (2.7p)

the health shops, and the pharma-

ceutical and veterinary arms.

ith already reined-in expectations, the shares slipped another 12p to 230p yesterday as the market focused on a downbeat assessment of current trading and slower-than-hoped-for progress on the rebranding of its troubled drug stores operation.

It is almost as if investors are looking for reasons to sell the shares, which stand 50 per cent below their level 18 months ago. Allen Lloyd, the chairman, reported to have had enough with the Square Mile, which he believes has always undervalued the company he founded in 1973. His annoyance is un-derstandable – after yesterday's fall the shares trade on a massive discount to the rest of the market.

That is a pretty grudging rating for a company that has just announced a 15 per cent rise in turnover to £1.08bn. the first time it has breached the billion-pound mark, Before exceptional items of £13.4m, foreshadowed six chemist chain was progressing at a de-

Tarabver £

4,89m (3,48m)

111m (101m)

0.90m (0.64m)

10.1m (7.27m)

44.4m (41.3m)

1.25m (0.46m)

39.4m (36.3m)

264m (237m)

William Sinclair (F)

cent lick - but it is proving much slower than expected.

Trading has been clobbered by two developments. First the National Lottery has sucked £100m a week, 5 per cent of all non-food retail sales, out of consumers' pockets, hitting discretionary spending. Second, new laws on Sunday rading have boosted sales in out-of-town superstores at the expense of high street shops. Competition among those who re-main in-town is now intense.

Despite those worries, there is plainly a valuation anomaly in Lloyds' shares, with its 920 pharmacy licences arguably worth more than the total value of the company. On the basis of forecast profits of £58.5m this year and £64m next time the shares are valued at only 7 times 1997 earnings. That is cheap, but while the market continues to have reservations about the company's management they

Problems mount for Thorntons

Thorntons, the chocolate maker and retailer, has ill-served investors who climbed aboard at its 1988 stock market flotation. After a series of disappointments, the shares, down 4p yesterday, have climbed to just 149p from the 125p offer price.

The latest deflation of hopes comes as a result of a botched television advertising campaign last Christmas, compounded by a hot summer and the loss of a number of concessions in two greetings card chains. The net result was a fall in profits from £12.1m to £10.5m for the year to 24 June. The only consolation for shareholders is an 8 per cent rise in last year's total dividend to 5.3p.

At least some of the confidence that represents stems from Thorntons' decision to seek a new chief executive, whose identity will be revealed once he has sorted things out with his current employer. In the meantime, the company s parting company with its UK managing director, David Mitchell,

The new person is said to have "extensive experience as managing director of retail businesses", but his room for manoeuvre will already be severely limited by the fact that a programme to re-orient the business has now swung into action. Capital expenditure is being jacked up from £7.7m to £10m in the current year,

half of which relates to the retail busines A refurbishment programme will see 50 shops redone by the year end, with 15 relocated. On top of this, Thorntons plans to open another 20 or so new ontlets. The structural and management changes have cost £775,000 in the latest

pact will be, although there may be some offset if legal action over the loss of concessions in the Carlton Card chain, taken over by Clinton Cards, is successful In the meantime, assuming profits re-

cover to at least £12m this year, the shares stand on a prospective multiple of 12. Unattractive unless the family decides to sell out to a hidder.

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Left in the air by the party conference



Stretcher case: David Whelan's 1960 Cup Final mishap did not stop him going on to score a big success with the sports retailer JJB Photograph: Photo News Agency

With Tate & Lyle turning distinctly pinkish on the corpo-rate donation front, the Tories will not be pleased to learn that Michael Heseltine has got up the nose of another Prime Minister yesterday de layed David Whelan, chairman of the independent sports retailer JJB Sports, by one and a half hours on his

way in to London.

The problem was that Mr Whelan - the former Blackburn Rovers footballer who was stretchered off the field in the 1960 FA Cup final - was circling RAF Northolt in his executive jet at the time with the pilot looking nervously at the fuel gauge. Worse still, he brought glad tidings to the City in the shape of a stonking

set of figures Air traffic control were unmoved. The Cahinet minister was flying up to the Tory party conference in Blackpool

and he was clearly a priority. Still, Mr Heseltine can console himself that his "stacking" of Mr Whelan is unlikely to result in any further haemorrhaging from Tory party coffers. The only donation the Wigan entrepreneur has ever announced is £40,000 to the first person living within a 13-mile radius of his home town to win Wimhledon

Meanwhile Michael Whelan, international yachting bore and founder chairman of Aran Energy, the Irish oil exploration company under siege from both Arco of the US and Statoil of Norway, points out that the Americans have a poor track record against his fiefdom.

It turns out that Mr Whelan's son, Roger, did his work experience with Arco while studying at the Wharton Business School in Philadelphia. So impressed were the Californians with the lad that they offered him a job once he had finished his course.

Unaware of the lengths to which Areo would subsequently go to get their hands on a Whelan, the son declined, opting instead for Amoco in Chicago.

While it was undoubtedly grateful for the financial assistance at the time, Britain's oldest merchant bank is not embracing the Dutch flag with much enthusiasm. A fierce pocket of resistance has been flushed out in the corporate finance arm of the recently refinanced ING Baring.

One of the problems of selling Brazilian electricity privatisation to the City has been the high level of wastage. The system is prone to unauthorised tapping from ingenious consumers "dead cat problem", according to José Carlos Mendança, af the Brazilian brokers Garantia (readers may find the next paragraph distressing).

It works like this. Impoverished San Paulo resident needs ome juice to heat up the family supper. He goes out on the street, picks up a passing stray cat, and throws it on to the overhead cables. The result is a short circuit, which allows the power thief to clip on his personal jump leads before the cur-

Sadly, it's curtains for the cat.

They may be paid in guilders but the Euro-sceptic financiers - who are advising Lloyds Bank on its merger with TSB - flatly refuse to have anything to with their Dutch overlords or their acronym. "Make sure that you call us Baring Brothers,"

warned one nationalist. Expect Nick Leeson to be sprung from jail shortly.

Never one to give up the dri-ving seat lightly, Sir Nicholas Goodison, art historian and chairman of TSB, will nevertheless adopt a more ceremonial role when the Lloyds Bank-TSB merger is announced today. The job of convincing the City falls mainly to the chief executive dream team of Sir Brian Pitman and Peter Ellwood, the bard man who joined TSB from Barclaycard.

Mr Ellwood shares Sir Brian's passion for cost-cutting. giving some credence to union warnings of huge job losses. Analysts still quiver with excitement when they recall a visit to a Barclaycard centre where Mr Ellwood unveiled his vision of a hightech, low-wage factory.

Profile points all round for the staff it may be. But Sir Nicholas is unlikely to be robbed of TSB's impressive collection of modern art. "It will probably stay where it

The dinosaurs of the Eighties, who could rack up a £600 lunch bill at the Savoy during three hours of gluttony, are all but extinct. The typical business lunch now takes just one and three-quarter hours and costs £35 a head, according to a survey for Air Miles.

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Every Wednesday in the **INDEPENDENT** section two

Sinking Trafalgar jettisons family jewels

Selling the Ritz is a low-water mark for a once-great firm. writes Tom Stevenson

There can be no better symbol of the depths to which Trafal-gar House has fallen than the sale of the Ritz last week. Once one of Britain's leading conglomerates, only the direst of financial straits could have forced the disposal of such a unique-

COMPANY RESULTS

Pre-tax £

2.04m (1,24m)

14.1m (12,3m)

1.80m (0.76m

0.81m (0.60m)

-1.12m (-0.77m)

4.2m (4.13m)

35.5m (22.3m)

ly prestigious trophy asset. Trafs is seriously on its uppers. The disposal, to the secretive Barclay brothers, who also own the Howard Hotel, the European newspape; and a string of other high-profile investments. was hardly the anniversary present Nigel Rich would have chosen a year after he took up the chief executive's position at Trafalgar, even if the price he achieved was by any measure a full one.

It has been a stormy 12 months since he was installed by his former bosses, the Keswick brothers of Hong Kong's Jardine Matheson trading empire, which, through its Hong Kong Land subsidiary, owns a quarter of Trafalgar's shares.

During that time, Trafalgar has had to negotiate the PR gaffe of the century, when its Cunard subsidiary foolishly sent its flagship cruiser, the QE2, on a voyage to the Caribbean only half fitted out.

It has seen its bid for Northern Electric kicked into touch by the electricity regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, and lost almost two-thirds of its value on the stock market. At 29.5p, the shares are just

2p above their lowest level

since 1974, which was reached

last week. The epitome of the

1980s boom share, they rose al-most sevenfold during that

guidance of Sir Nigel Broackes. In the space of five years they have lost it all again and then a hit more.

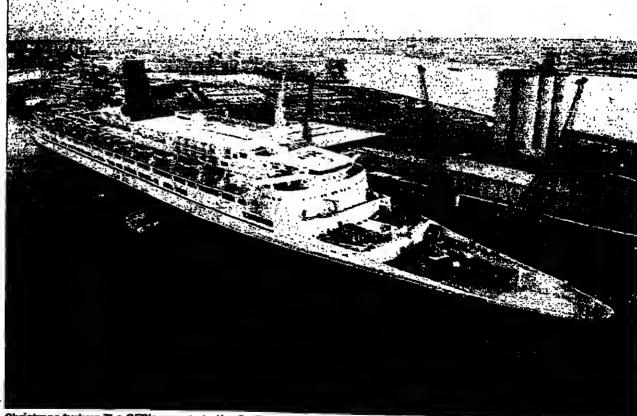
Trafalgar is now valued at only a little over £300m. That is about the same as Hazlewood Foods, half as much as MFI, a fifth the market value of Next. Any further fall and Trafalgar will drop out of the FT-SE Mid 250 index and into the SmallCap

segment of the market.
What has gone wrong is easier to describe than to put right. Rapid expansion in the good years has left the company with a hotch-potch of assets in a range of industries whose only shared feature is lack of prospects - heavy-power engineering, construction, housebuilding and property.

Internal controls have been by the frank admission of Mr Rich, totally inadequate for a company of Trafalgar's size and complexity. Trading is poor and cash flow worse.

Following the disposal of the Ritz hotel, attention now turns to what else Trafalgar can sell to reduce its debts of about £250m. Although those dehts are not massive in the context of its net assets, which stood at £641m in March, there are serious doubts about the valuation of many of Trafalgar's assets in its balance sheet.

Serious write-downs of value when figures for the year to September are announced just before Christmas could wipe out much of the notional worth that underpins those borrowings, making gearing more of a worry than it appears now.



Christmas turkey: The QE2's voyage to the Caribbean when only half-refurblished was the 'gaffe of the cantury'

Speculation surrounds the ber. If Trafalgar still needs to fate of the Cunard line, which is underperforming its peers

In the first six months of last year, when Trafalgar declared an unexpectedly large £48m loss, shipping chipped in £7m of red ink even before exceptional charges to do with the QE2's Christmas fiasco.

Comments from Mr Rich over the summer that it could be several years before the line produces a decent return sug-gest that a large write-off of its book value is likely in Decem-

raise money by disposing of assets it is, like the Ritz, an obvious "name" to put on the

The next two months will be crucial ones - for Trafalgar, for the reputation of Nigel Rich and for the Keswicks, who have made no secret of the fact that the company represented a European base for their empire following the takeover of Hong Kong by the Chinese in 1997.

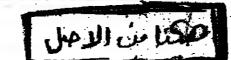
Three years after they first boarded Trafalgar, they have poured more into the company in exchange for a 26 per cent holding than the whole company is now worth. As much as the financial loss, the investment

resents a huge loss of face. Talk to analysis about Trafalgar and the frustration is tangible. The company has always been short on information, a fault it is trying to rectify, but forecasting its profits is no easier now than before because so much hinges on the scale of the write-offs to come.

To make matters worse, with sales of almost £4bn, the slightest movement in operating mar-

gin can generate a huge swing in profit (or loss). The City will be looking for an uncharacteristic openness about prospects and strategy when it next meets the company. The Intest edition of the Earnings Guide shows a wide range of forecasts for the year just finished stretching from a profit of £40m to a loss

When things are going as badly as they are at Trafalgar House it is amazing how easily you can chuck away the value of one of the world's great



market report/shares

DATA BANK FT-SE 100 3,460.1 -50.2 FT-SE 250 FT-SE 350

3,903.2 -49.9 1,730.1 -24.4 SEAQ VOLUME 828.2m shares. 33,746 bargains Gilts Index 92.78

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

parts is worth considerably more than the £3.34bn value placed un it by the stuck -0.16 Louise Barton, analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, reck-

ons that Pearson would be attractive to a predator right up to 900p a share, based on calculations on the value of media deals made over the last

analysts reckon the sum of the

There are concerns among other analysts, however, that Pearson's stock market rating is too high and the shares are set for a tumble if a bid fails to materialise.

A recent strategic assess-ment by analysts at NatWest Securities said: "There is no doubting the group's consid-

Shares in Pearson stood out from the madding crowd yesfrom the madding crowd yes-terday, rising 5p to 602p on a strengthening belief that the di-Pearson's rating does not leave any room for disappointment. verse media group is vulnera-ble to a takeover bid. Some

Pearson was one of only nine leading shares not to be caught rush for the door by marketmakers, which resulted in more than 50 points being wiped off the FT-SE 100 share index.

Keeping Pearson company was BAT Industries, the to-bacco and financial services giant. The shares, which were down in mid-afternoon deal-ings, closed 1p firmer at 533p on vagne talk of a break-up bid being made by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the US leveraged buyout specialist.

The rumour probably has no foundation in fact, but dealers have long memories and have not forgotten the audacious £13bn move, spearheaded by Sir James Goldsmith, for the company back in 1989. Two of the other leaders to

MARKET REPORT

JOHN SHEPHERD Government will collapse and a general election will happen

Takeover talk drives Pearson against the selling tide

make headway against the outgoing tide were Standard Chartered Bank, ahead 20p, and Royal Bank of Scotland,

ap 9p to 493p. Both rises were fuelled by the excitement over the planned merger hetween Lloyds Bank, down 6p to 720p, and TSB, uff 3p to 350p. Full details of the £15on tie-up are expected to be announced

For the rest of the market the session was disastrous. Pin-pointing the exact reason for the calamity, however, was as difficult as finding the proverbial needle in a haystack. One thing led to another in morning dealings, and by the

time Wall Street opened shares were in free-fall, with the FT-SE 100 index sporting a hefty 68-point fall. London then rode tandem with Wall Street

prices on the other side of the Atlantic started to rally. The principal reason for the continuing fall in the US prices is concern about the quality of third-quarter corporate earnings, particularly among the technology companies. Noise from the poor figures from Motorola was detectable un the telecommunications pitch where Vodafone fell 6.5p to 249p, and Securicor, 40 per cent shareholder in Cellnet,

and clawed back more than a

quarter of the losses as stock

dropped 45p to £10.55p. Political uncertainty also had an impact on the London market. The main concern is that the a year earlier than expected.

There were also jitters about the next batch of inflation figures, which will be released tomorrow, the same day that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, addresses the Tory Party faithful in Blackpool. However, the evidence for

the prosecution against the market-makers was overwhelming. Only 465 million shares had been traded when the FT-SE was 68 points down, and a total of 828.5 million changed hands during the whole session - a figure which included two chunky basket trades, one of which was by NatWest Securities covering 25

A lack of action on the

OIL, INTEGRATED

help matters. Normal service on bids is set to be resumed soon, with North West Water. down 6p to 595p, said to be primed to increase its £1.8bn for Norweb, off 7p to £10.86.

Glaxo Wellcome lost 16p to 758p, a fall that could mostly be attributed to recognize the fall that the said of 5.50m.

be attributed to worries of a competitive threat to its Imi-gran migraine drug from a cheaper alternative marketed by Synthelabo, part of L'Oreal. Retailers were rattled by Safeway's relaunch of its loyalty card, a move which analysts

lead to a tougher fight for market share among the supermarket groups.
Argyll, owner of Safeway, lost 4.5p tn 335p, Sainsbury lost 4.5p to 430p, and Tesco shed 4p to 310.5p.

Among the few to finish the

believe will almost certainly

Among the few to finish the day on a higher note was St

THE INDEPENDENT INDEX

MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES

FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR

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Ives, up 9p to 414p on the back of a 60 per cent profits advance.

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Senq. Simply dial 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 6891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

Amone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service, For a detailed description of The Todependent Index, including its portfolio (actility, phone 0891 123 333, For assistance, call our helpline 071 873 4375 (9.30am - 5.30pm). Calls cost 39p per minute (cheap rate), and 49p at all other times. Call charges include VAT

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FT-SE 100 - Real-time 00 Sterling Rates 04 Privatisation Issues
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UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Shares
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Other details: xr Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Unlisted Securities Market s Suspen PP Partly Paid pas Nil Paid Shares. Source Finstal.

the day's worst performer, plunging 37p to 162p on news that it is still suffering tech-nical problems in developing a huge gold mine with the Kazakhstan government. Traders said the fall could have been worse but for hopes that the problems would be overcome, and that Bakyrchik will do a deal soon with a third party on a bid or a joint venture. Bakyrchik was a new issue darling when it floated in 1993 with the shares, floated at 120p, swift-

One of the session's best performers was Quality Soft-ware, which climbed 79p to an all-time high of 705p on a 33 per cent profits improve-ment and a £7.2m acquisition of Global Software in the US. The purchase is being funded through a seven-for-20 rights

8,100 Team 7,800 Standard Charle 7,800 British Steel 7,500 SP

ly soaring to a peak 370p.

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

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Torrance

returns

to face

Langer

Sam Torrance, back in the Toy-

ota World Match Play champi-

onship at Wentworth after a 10-year absence, has been given

a difficult task in his attempt to win the £170,000 first prize on

The 42-year-old Scotsman,

leading money-winner in Europe this season with over £630,000,

meets the world No 3, Bernhard

Langer, in tomorrow's opening round and, if successful takes on

the world No 2, Nick Price, in the

tough but Langer is definitely a tough one," said Torrance af-

ter practising with the Ryder Cup captain, Bernard Gallach-

cr, yesterday afternoon. "His strength is his mind. He is very

determined, very steely and has a great will to win. And he

has an incredible short game."

The clash of the two Ryder

Cup team-mates is easily the

most attractive of the four first-

round matches. In the others,

last year's runner-up, Colin Montgomerie, faces 24-year-old American David Duval,

Costantino Rocca takes on

Vijay Singh, and Lee Janzen,

second on this season's US

money list, is up against Japan's

The top four seeds, who all

enter the fray on Friday, are, in

order, Ernie Els, Ben Crenshaw,

On his two previous appear-

ances in the event, in 1984 and

1985, Torrance went out in the

first round to Toru Nakamura

two and one and then

to Tommy Nakajima six and five.
"I've heen Naka-ered hoth

Montgomerie pulled out of

the German Masters last Thursday with a tendon injury but has

taken things easy since and is ex-

pected to be fully fit.

TOYOTA WORLD MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP (Wentworth): First-round draw
(benomow): 8.15am and 12.30pm; L
James (US) v K Tomort Lipsen). Winner to
play E Ele (SA). 8.30am and 12.45pm; 5
Torrance (GB) v B Langer (Ger). Winner to
play N Pire (Zirn), 8.45 and 1pair C Montgomerie (GB) v D Duval (US), Winner to play
S Elongton (Vus). Sem and 1.15pm; C Rocca (It) v V Singh (Fil). Winner to play B Crenshaw (US).

times," he joked.

pected to be fully fit.

Steve Elkington, and Price,

Katsuyoshi Tomori.

"It was always going to be

Golf

Sunday.

quarter-finals.

Murphy in tale of rediscovery

RICHARD EDMONDSON reports from Chepstow

Declan Murphy added a chapter to a story that will soon be retold at children's bedsides here yesterday. The Irish jockcy, who was close to death after a fall at Haydock 17 months ago, showed his rehabilitation is complete by winning on his comeback ride. The kids will not believe it.

Hospitals have provided Murphy with the defining mo-ments of his life. He was brought into the world in the Co Limerick village of that name in 1967 and almost left it in Liverpool's Walton Hospital last May. His injuries following a fall from Arcot - multiple fractures to his skull and a hloodclot on his brain - were so severe that at one stage he was considered to be just four minutes from death. He remembers nothing of the accident and the friends and family who saw him in hospital have urged him never to view the pictures that

A11 \

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captured his condition.

There was no sign of all this on the face of the 28-year-old jockey. Murphy's memory may be impaired in several areas, but the calmness that has characterised much of his riding is still with him. After studying the card for the Flat versus Jump Jockeys Challenge in which he was a participant, he fell asleep in the Mercedes that was transporting him the 200 miles from

HAYDOCK

2.00 Wild Humour

3.00 Brockton Flame

2.30 Inchrory

his Newmarket home to the Welsh track

When he emerged for combat fitted with the new helmet he has helped to develop, Murphy appeared screne. It was not a false image. "He showed no nerves and I didn't give him any instructions," Geoff Lewis, who legged the jockey into Jibereen's saddle, said: "You don't give good jockeys instructions." If others were fearful for

Murphy's health, they did not let it influence their betting, and Jibereen started as 7-2 favourite. Fear of defeat was all but extinguished in a matter of strides.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Sue Me (Haydock 3.00) NB: Ed's Folly (Haydock 2.00)

Murphy checked over his right shoulder before manoeuvring into first place on the rails. It was a position he was never to relinquish. It may not have been the most competitive of races and there may have been few jockeys eager to spoil the story, but that should not di-

minish from the achievement. The Irishman has never let the thought that his powers may have been snuffed out enter his mind, but even he was surprised by the manner in which he immediately coped with the rigours of race riding. "I found the horse's cruising

speed within 10 strides," he re-

ported. "By the time I got to the half-mile pole I felt complete as a jockey. I did it instinctively and I didn't have to work at it.

"I have achieved some victories in my life but nothing as great as this. What has felt like a dream for so long has just become a reality."

Before competition, Murphy had threatened that this could be both his first ride back and the last of his career He has been offered a job which would take him out of the country for three or four months a year but one over which he was sworn to secrecy (the profile of a post with MI6).

Such was the exhilaration he felt here that considerations of an alternative career were soon abandoned. "I could not get off horses after that," he said. "No matter what was offered me on this planet I would not give up. The reality is that I may be able to do this for another seven or

eight years."
There were passages where Murphy was lost for words yesterday, which added to the singularity of the afternoon. He refused to ponder the future too closely although he is expected to make his return to fences at Kempton on Saturday. "I don't see that as a problem because any jump race I have ever ridden in," he said. "I don't want to look too far because I don't want to get off the cloud I am on right now. This has been the greatest day of my life."



Declan Murphy returns in triumph on libereen at Chepstow yesterday

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Whip is dropped

Racing's new latex whip, designed to be kinder to horses. faces an uncertain future after it broke in half and marked a horse at Chepstow yesterday. Jockeys were adamant that they would carry out no further trials with the instrument after it failed on its first examination in today was more difficult than a Flat race. Graham Bradley was asked to try the whip on Great Hall, who finished eighth, and gave it short shrift. "I hit the horse four times and it broke on the third hlow and, as you know, I only flick them," he said.

Bailey may turn to Dunwoody

Richard Dunwoody is the man likely to step in at Kim Bailey's stable for Norman Williamson, who will be out of action for up to six months because of a broken femur sustained on Monday.

Dunwoody, the champion jump jockey for the last three sea-

sons, was a 33-1 shot for this sea- Hurdler Alderbrook - at the end son's title after breaking up with Martin Pipe. Now he has been cut to 14-1 with William Hill, having been booked to ride for Bailey - the trainer of the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner

of the week. Durwoody's agent, Robert Parsons, said; "We will know more after Richard sees Kim Bailey tonight."

Jockeys' Chempionetrip: William Hill: 8-13 David Bridgwatet, 15-8 Adrien Maguire, 9-2 Tony McCoy, 14-1 Richard Dutwoody.

HYPERION

2.10 Sprung Rhythm 2.40 Sexon Magic 3.10 Whyfor 3.40 Minster's Son 4.10 Ciliton Beat 4.40 Celtic Laird (nb) 5.10 The Black Monk

GCING: Good to Firm.

Right-hand, undulating course, Stiff test of staming
Course is firm SW of Exeter on ASS, ADMISSION; (
& Paddock 59; Silver Ring \$4.50, CAR PARK: Free.

SIS All nees

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: The Minister (3.10) has been sent 342 miles by R Champion from Newmarks, Suffolk.

2.10 DEAN & DYBALL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 added 2m 3f

Minimum weight: 10st. Rue herdicay weight: Alocue & Them Times Set 12th, Hert Day Six 7th, Roo's Promise Set 2th, Time To Make Six Sib. BETTIME 7-4 Spann Height, 3-1. Times To Micros. 12 Times Times, 9-2 Up The Jeaction, 5-1 Reset Day, 20-1 Predect Peggs, 50-1 others

3.10 DEAN & DYBALL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,500 2m 1f 110yds

Master Oats and Champion 9 F/FF02-U WANTFOR (19) S Neight 7 10 0 D Sahur (5) 10 ODFFP- THE MARKETER (337) R Champion 6 10 0 B Powell 11 AFFP- TUDOR WEDDONG (533) R Aiver 10 10 0 C Manufa - 11 declared 48 harrow: 10st. Fuz weights: The Minister 9st (33b, Tudor Wedding (50; 5t). BETTING: 5-1 Generators; 3-1 Reyel Segios, 9-2 Magnillan Ray, 5-1 Milles Own, 5-1 Octoré Quil, 10-1 Spearboad Agaila, 12-1 Abaverd, 14-1 others

3.40 DEAN & DYBALL CONDITIONALS SELLING H'CAP H'DLE (CLASS G) £2,400 2m 3f

- 11 declared -BETTWG: 3-1 Polit, 4-1 Bright Supplies, 9-2 Minston's Madern, 5-1 Boo-gie Bopper, 8-1 Poetic Famsy, 10-1 Mildred Sophia, 12-1 others

- 9 decisied -BETTIME 11-4 Poking Prids, 5-1 Barmious Bill, 7-2 Hervell Lad, 9-2 Cettle Luck, 7-1 Maroman, Bala, 8-1 Bray Samin, 20-1 others 5.10 DEAN & DYBALL HANDICAP HURDLE

(CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m 1f 110vds

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Durington Set &b. BETTINE: 9-4 The Black Morat, 5-2 Blair Caetia, 9-2 Draws Damba, 11-1 Here He Conses, 7-1 The Minder, 5-1 Time For 4 Flatter, 50 Derrington

Davis Cup delight for Lloyd

Tennis

David Lloyd, Britain's Davis Cup captain, was in confident mood after hearing the draw for the 1996 competition, made in London yesterday.

Britain, languishing in the Euro-African Zone Group Two - in effect, the Third Division - will play Slovenia at home from 3 to 5 May and, if successful, will then probably meet Ghana away from 12 to 14 July and then Egypt at home from

20 to 22 September. If they win all three ties, Britain will be promoted to the Euro-African Group One and Lloyd says: "I like our draw very rough. If all goes well, there is no reason why we should not go

up next year. "On paper, we have a team that can win promotion. Greg Rusedski has just gone up to 35 in the world rankings, his highest ever, and Tim Henman and Mark Patcher, are both doing Mark Petchey are both doing

well." 1998 Dawis Cup DRAW Exro-Africas Zone Group Two: Great Britari v Stoveria; Ghara v Malta: Egypt v Mocedonia; Latwa v kony Coast; Poland v Negend; Lugambourg v Belarus; Yugoslawa v Stovah Republic; Algara v Portugal, World Broup first round (Feb 9-11): Italy v Russer; South Africa v Austria; Switzerland v Germany; France v Denmark: India v The Netherlands: Sweden v mark; India v The Netherlands; Sweden s Belgium; Czech Republic v Hungary; United

Steffi Graf, under investigation for tax evasion, has dropped out of the Brighton tournament later this month and is unlikely to play again until the Philadelphia event in November, her lawyer said yesterday.

Results 0839 - 111 171 Commentary 9839 - 111 175

★ THE INDEPENDENT

Horse Racing

Source, Boundayston/fistylane 071-425-5964 Calls thoughd at 75p per sale champ mas, 45p per mis at all other times.



3.30 Nash Terrace 5.30 Dombey GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places), STALLS: 71, 1m - inside; remetu DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 6f; Low from 7f 30yd to 1re 40yd. alls 58; Newton Stand 58.50 (OAPs helf-price in Thetersulis and Ne CAR PARK, Free. SIS All races LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: J Gosden — 25 wheners from 95 ren-

HYPERION

4.00 Alessandra

4.30 Rosy Hue

5.00 ROUSSI (nap)

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: J Goaden — 25 winners from 95 repress gives a success ratio of 26.3% and a profit to a £1 level stake of £18.42; H Co-cil — 18 winners, 57 removers, 33.3%, +£16.34; B Hills — 18 winners, 81 removes, 12.7%, -\$4.03; J Berry — 10 winners, 204 runners, 7.82%, -\$118.75.
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: W Ryan — 28 winners, 166 rides, 17.9%, -\$2.37; L Detoti — 23 winners, 137 rides, 16.8%, -\$41.14; J Carroll — 22 winners, 206 rides, 10.7%, -\$40.31; M Hills — 20 winners, 91 rides, 22%, +\$16.64.
BLINERRED FIRST TIME: Finisteere (2.00); Heathyards Rock (visored) (3.30); France, 150.75.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None: LONG-DISTANCE EURNERS: Harbour Duns (4.00) & Demarks (5.00) have been sent 121 miles by Lady Herries from Augmenting Park, West Samers; Selbs Folly (2.00) sent 212 miles by S Dow from Epsons, Surrey.

12	2.00	SYCAMORE NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £3,786
ı۳	111360	WHERESEY PERRY (ZZ) (ZZ) (ZZ) (ZZ) (ZZ) (ZZ) (ZZ) (ZZ
Ιż	241361	HEAR THE MUSIC (10) (CD) (Lody Harrison) 8 Hills 8 3
Ιā	002	CHALICE (11) (A C Hall) J Belting 8 5
Ā	003	ED'S FOLLY (13) (Eddie Descript 8 Dow 80
5	0010	PARST MAITE (7) (0) (S R Bowing S Bowing 7 12
6	150310	PRECIOUS CIRL (19) (D) (P G Away) D Morbot 7 11
17	14	TROPICAL BEACH (173) (D) (Contact One & Tomsholme Tearl) J Berry 7 9L Character
8	606301	BEE REACH BOY (22) (C) files Health Ltd) M W Easterby 7 7 P Faceby (5)
9	604	FINISTERIRE (23) (Les Feromes Fatales) J.J. O'Right 7 7
10	0500	WILD HOMOUR (30) (R Hom) W Mur 7 7Martin Dayer (7)
11		CHARTERHOUSE XPRES (13) (Crementouse Haldings) M McConrect 7 7
Min	tourn weig	pe: 7st 7th. Two harvicesp weight: Bee Health Boy 7st Gib, Finlature 7st Bib, Wild Human shouse Xpres 7st 1th.
/57		ZIRAGU ANNU TALAMA

1994: She's Dynamor 2 8 13 Pet Edday 9-1 (W Javis) 14 am provided processes the processes of the processes o

2.30 MARTON INSTITUTE CENTENARY CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 2YO 1m 30yds Penalty Value £4,908

(CLASS C) £7,500 2YO 1m 30yds Penielty Value £4,908

1 53151 RIMHRITO (29) (0) (3r Deat With) H Cod 9 7 Pet Bidary 2

2 D MY ARCHE (21) (6 A Fandor) R Wood 10 M 8 11 N Consorten 4

3 1 CLASSIC ROBINIOS (11) (0) (Death Shockstock Pic) 5 Williams 8 10 A Mackay 3

4 I SALMIS (24) (Salv Ver Noot, Deaths and Patricins) Farchises 8 5 D Hardson 1

- A declared
9ETTING: 4-7 Instructory, 7-2 Salvins, 5-1 Classic Roseance, 25-1 My Archie

1984: Aliaszkin 2 8 10 W R Swinburn 7-2 (M Stockstone (77) on her debut but sive did it the from literary. Salvins won a bed gross and consistency (77) on her debut but sive did it the heard way after being found wenting for foot in the early stages. She responded well to hard hard way after being found wenting for foot in the early stages. She responded well to hard hard way after being tound wenting for foot in the early stages. She responded well to hard hard manner beat only a modest type in Salty Girl here 11 days ago but she did it in good six Romanore beat only a modest type in Salty Girl here 11 days ago but she did it in good six Romanore beat only a modest type in Salty Girl here 11 days ago but she did it in good six Romanore beat only a modest type in Salty Girl here 11 days ago but she did it in good six Romanore beat only a modest type in Salty Girl here 11 days ago but she did it in good six Romanore beat only a modest type in Salty Girl here 10 days ago but she did it in good six Romanore beat only a modest type in Salty Girl here 10 days ago but she did it in good six Romanore beat only a modest type in Salty Girl here 10 days ago but she did it in good six Romanore beat only a modest type in Salty Girl here 10 days ago but she did it in good six Romanore beat only a modest type in Salty Girl here 10 days ago but she did it in good six Romanore beat only a modest type in Salty Girl here.

[3	00	TOMMY WALLIS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,25 Penalty Value £4,241	0 added 6
\mathbf{r}		Penany value 14,241	I Partland 18
1	231503	SEA THURIDER (12) (0) (Greenfeld Study Baking 3 10 0	Decare 20
2	005004	MOSTER JOLSON (20) (Dob Prooms) R Hodges 5 10 0	rex coursy 22
ŝ	060000		
4	000100		
	110500	BE WANDED (11) (12) INCOMES IND HUND 8 Bowing 5 8 10	_50 *******
5	510-3G1		
5	310033	DOST VEN. (10) (C) (D) (Raymond Tooth) J Fanahave 5 8 9	N Wastery (2) 34
7			
8	23563		
9	033320	ROSSINE BLUE (4) (b) decision with the Word May M Penning 3 9 6	X Darley 13
ıΩ	57 0530	Sur Line All (A C Minney) M Dock 3 9 8 (000)	Wepper 12
11	-52431		W Casson 7
12	05020	SUE ME (32) (0) (March C March M Blanchard 3 9 5	16 Roberts 2
13	25,005	BARNO (10) (U) (Cond R Young) Mis J Remarks 49 4	T Pl== (7) 47
14	730030	BARRIO (10) (U) (Dend R Young may / Remove 3 9 2	R Cochrane 9
15	01-2-5	SROCKTON FLAME (10) (0) 945 D A Li MONT Partneship) W Museut 78 13 GONE SAMME (19) (0) (The On The Floor Partneship) W Museut 78 13	P McCabe (3) 21
16	550400	GONE SAMMER (19) (D) (The On The Four House and 48 12 LITTLE JANK (10) (D) (Swarmarion Research Cath 1990) P Falling 5	C Heat 22
17	000042	LITTLE JENER (10) (O) (Swemmitch frampur Lun P Exempt 1990) P Feigner 5 DOUBLE SPLENDOUR (22) (C) (Verenue Raung Club 1990) P Feigner 5	8 10W Ryes 8
18	1-1301-	DOUBLE SPLENDOUR (22) (D) (When's report with Easterly 4.8 8	
19	460010	HONOLOUI TIER (TO) IN USE 1 IN DESCRIPTION TO STATE OF THE PROPERTY TO	
20	00E3L3	MAID O'CANONE (22) OF (82) ASSET ASS	j Williams 10
ž	404000	MONES (20) (Fig. Ster Packer) Product 1 Book 3.8.5	
Ħ	425530	MANAGES DUE (27) () K 8 Parties Alle Medit W Hales 684	Duin Cibeco 5
23	50006	HONOTON LASS (10) (D) (No) M Deserport M W Essenty 4.8.8 MAID O'CANONE (22) (D) (85) 963 E Rhing M W Essenty 4.8.8 MAID O'CANONE (22) (D) (85) 963 E Rhing M M Essenty 4.8.8 MAINES (24) (J The Star Record) J Berly 3.8.5 MAINES (25) (J N 6) Permissibly J Berly 3.8.5 MAINES (25) (J N 6) Permissibly J Berly 3.8.5 MAINES (25) (J N 6) Permissibly J Berly 3.8.5 MAINES (25) (M 6) MAINES (25) (M 6) MAINES (25) (M 6) MAINES (25) (M 7) MAINES (25) (M	
24	640110	DENESEN IN (CD) (NO JEROS NI PERI CONTESTION DE	
~	Cartia	DEFIGURATION (ALL) - 24 declared - 24 declar	Mana, San Titue

BETTING: 7-1 Charlie Stifett, 13-1 Brockless Flours, First Vol. See Me. 13-5 Rosens care, was re-der, 14-1 Utris Bace, Misster Jakson, Pale Stience, 16-1 Broadstains Benerit, Quilling, 29-1 offsets des, 14-1 Utris Bace, Misster Jakson, Pale Stience, 15-1 Broadstains Benerity, Quilling, 29-1 offsets 1984: Pyratus 6 8 13 J Quern 20-1 U Whateron) 23 ten FORM &ULDE

Charle Stilett, who won here 10 days ago, looks 9 fast-improving three-year-old. First Vell care in win that same roce but had no answer when Charle Salett swooped. She is now that same roce but had no answer when Charles was because ask lengths into 10th. Sib better for the three-length became, PROCKTON FLAME was because ask lengths into 10th other encountering traffic proteinns near the stands ade rail. She should be better for that other that make the proteinns near the stands and rail. She should be better for that other that no over two months and the standards of originates. He had better for that our of Pression could pull a off meeting Charle Salett on 96 better trans. Pale Blanco rail or Of Pression could pull a off weeting Charle Salett when third to Double Bource, a cracker in a stronger race at fath an standard the mid-season break. She like extract the argument on his stronger race at fath are stronger here they outlings ago, while Double Splenment on his stronger of form to Square. Maketer Johns and Pat Eddery are an interesting dour is in the right eart of form to Square. Maketer Johns and Pat Eddery are an interesting dour is in the right eart of form to Square. Maketer Johns and Pat Eddery are an interesting dour is in the right eart of the coll-turner under 10st but three outlings ago he was beautiful only the lengths when eight to No Extres at Condiscod and won in the mud at Newbury last year. Be Warned at only 20 worse off after costing flook for the most of standard translated the subsequent runs have been over the wrong trip [77]. Salections BROCKTON FLAME.

3.30 KING'S REGIMENT CUP CONDITIONS STARES (CLASS C)

58,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value 54,982

1 12,1805 PENRY A DW (25) (20) U 6000 May M Receipt 5 9 13 K Dustry 8

2 626263 MMCK THE INFE (12) (P) ID & S Marcely M Pipe 8 9 7 M Roberts 4

BETTRIR: 1-2 Selection, 9-2 Mark The Kriffe, 5-1 Meah Terrace, 12-1 Permy A Day, 33-1 Heatisjurida Rock
1994: Florid 3 8 IDW Ryen 100-30 (H Caci) 5 cm
PORTM SUIDE
One-time Derby tency SEBASTIAN has drively beston Mash Terrace and it will come as a
surprise if, in recept of 6th, ha carnot also overcome Masck The Keiffe. The talented son
of Sadier's Weils should prove even more effective on this softash ground and a defeat in
May in hot a black mark any more in view of Terruse's second to Lammtern at Essent, Nash
Terrace had a 10-langth rear vew of Sebastian et Salisbury in May and his latest, second
to Rovere at Goodwood does not took good enough for him to cause a form Newsall, Mack
The Inhis did as well an could be expected against Sebastian's stablement Maries Masic at
Newstarket, after his layoff. He has preferred faster ground over the years and Sebastian
can be rated superior to Minds (Ausic, the St Leger numbrup, The handleopers Penery A
Dey and Hearthywrits Rock face a nigh-impossible task, Salischion: SEBASTIAN.

4.00	HAWTHORN MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) added 270 7f 30yds Penalty Value £4,32	(DIV I) £6,000
	ANOUNDFINEMINE OF CI Emperory W Hagh 80	Date Chang 2
	HAPMOUR DUES (Heamorals Sauth Lady Hernes 9 0	
	POLAR ECLESE (I R Good M Johnston 8 0	
	PRESENT TH CORRECT (A Lycra) C Booth 9 0	
8	SEEM CLEST (17) & 8 Parrow) Sr Mais Preson 90	
	SON OF ANSHAN (20) & A Switches Mrs A Switch 9 0	
00	SPILID (15) (Mirago S R U L Comen 90	
	ALESSAIDRA (BD) (D J Den) 8 174 89	
	WEFORD Shy Richards R Charles 8 8	
	a S decimal -	3, 4, 22 2

METERNE: 5-2 Alexandra, 11-4 Polar Eclipse, 4-1 Spille, 5-1 Waypoint, 7-1 Herbert Does, 8-1 Stient 1984: New Man 2 9 0 J Carrol 8-4 (J Gouden) 9 ran

1994: New Man 2 9 0 J Carroll 6-4 () Goedon's 9 ran FORM GUIDE

SPILLO gets the nod against likely smart newcorners Poliar Eclipses and Weypoint. Not signed on his debut at farmouth, Spillo shaped make better at Newmarkst next time when a pleasing eighth of 20 to Henry Caci's newcorner Helicon. He was just over four lengths with of numerous Committel, who breased home at York on Setunday, Barry Heis give his Rily Alexanshira an eight-week rest after the Westington Singer at Newbury where she faced min fifth behind Mons. Second to Birt Shedayid at Ascot on her debut, she is obviously thought capable of better and this ground could be the answer. Silent Genet's dam stayed well-tut improvement is needed other har himition introductory should, Poler Eclipse should like the ground being a son of Poler Falcon but the stable has been winneries for over a formight. Roger Charlon does well here so Weyport can be considered despine being brid for sprints — her dam Princess Atheria withing the Queen Many at Royal Ascot, Harbour Dass is from the family of Leap Lively and Forest Rower but Lady Herman's juveniles are shaping as though needing their introduction. Selection: SPILLO.

	7	20	HORNBEAM FILLIES HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,3	250 adde
		1.30	HORNBEAM FILLIES HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,3 3YO 1m 2f 120yds Penalty Value £3,812	
	1		HERROR ALSHEMAAL (\$1) (Stelft Ahmed Al Malcount) J Gosten 9 7	
	2	53-0165	PURICE 35) (Lord Hallan) L Curren 9 5	X Deries
	3	0.3331	ROSY HAE (12) (C) Quart Weinstock & Hon Simon Weinstock) R Charlon 9 5	-Put Battery
1	Ā	441.56	MESTRIGUELT (172) (BF) (B E Noker) () Locks 95	_ & Carter
	5	233015	WED HER CLO) (T Bridg) W Mar 93	M Hills
l	Б.	617414	EMECHADU (12) (D) (A S Rad) 8 Mechan 9 3	E Dovin
	7	423421	DEBUTTA (UEA) (SU) (D) (M Destrond Pargerald) M Bell 5 13	_M Penton 1
	8	315060	STEFT AGAIN (22) (Buckern Oak Plottings) W. Janes 8 12	I Read to
	ě	. 474	SADEY SORER (TER) OH ANDER P Com 8 12	_ Ween 1
٠.	10	(00015	DESCRIPTE DRIS (20) (3) (Lety Moltane) A Street 8 10	M Roberts 1
•	īī	01002	MANY PRINCESS (11) (STERN Armed A Maleourn) M Janes 8 10	- Robinson
•	12	502110	PRIJORAT PET (26) (The Michael & Roods Partnership) C Features 8 9	I Their i
1	13	SETURO	CORYANA DANCER (25) (Barouche Stud Un) R Holleshand 8 2	M Hours (5)
	14	113654	INSTANGANEOUS (S) (Fing Golfer) M H Easterby 7 10	W Corner I
	15	231016	MRL DANCER (11) (C) (C) (OF) (Ms Dox Jones) E Miston 77	DWG G
	16	DADIA	BOLDEY SO (118) (D) (BF) PAGE Process Somerroom) Y Museum 7 7	7 Order 1
		. ~ 24	-16 techned -	
	250	decress made	hr 7st 7th. This hardisep weight Boicly 3o 7st 1th.	
	-	700 C.1	Heboob Alchemani, Strey Hoe, 6-1 Pomics, 5-1 Domitis, Sady Sober, 1	-1 Wellmand
	10	T Franks M	pp, 12-1 Debutacto Days, Instantaneous, 14-1 Wild Rits, 20-1 other	
			Spording face	
			FORM CLIDE	

Hebsob Alabersall is well hardicapped on earlier form with Yoush at Windsox. Also, Franke Destort takes over today. However, SADDY SOBER, who contrasts her first handicap, is a fresh filly – her latest start being. I Goonda's mander area at Newmenter. In June, Sire alraped ricely as a juverale, the stable 1. In top form and today's partner Jeson Weever has an 100 per cent record for the year either warning on Star Meeter at Chesser last year. Plassics, in a strong race at Donosater lest time, raise 8 threat on this ground, hearing failed when favourite on the fast in Progression's handicap at York beforehand. She is 350 bower for this weeker affeit and is preferred to Goodwood melidan winner Recy Has, who previously finished third to Donns York at Sandown with Brave Princess always struggling in the rear. Meetingsett has been witched from Richard Hennon to David Loder, there could be better to come from Deabstepha Days and the booking of Willie Carson for Instantiscenses (apprentice ridden last time) is a plus. Selection: SADDY SOBER. PORTAL GUIDE

E	5.00	HOLLY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,250 added 1m 4f Penaity Value £4,028
		CARROLLEN SURFER RISA) (25) SA Server) J Sobie 695
*	000	LANGULLINE (125) (Nes D'EAndrews) T Donnelly 5 85\$ 0 Williams IT
2	000	LIMO (USA) (480) (The Low Figure (Thomographeds) Ltd) L Longo 4 95M Earth 9
3		DANASTA (485) (The Cassic Link Syndrom) Lady Homes 4 S DShoos Crowbie (7) 18
4	00-	Charles And the property of the control of the cont
5		KSECADUM (G.) ARSON N Bycott 59 D
. 9	- 00	PALACE REVER (S2) (S.R. Perregion) D Mollan. 7 9 0Derred Mollatt (S) 10
.7	35	DARRIER (21) Shake Michemmed L Cuman 38 11 X Darley 29
8	0-6	EXPANSIVE MINNER (MSQ (14) American Connection II P Harts 38 11
9	OM.	PROBLEM 6
10	n	energramen (20) Obita For Money Record May J S Dode 3 8 11
11	2	W Ryan S
12	2	CALLESS RICES (MOR Bloom & Middlewer) M Street 3 8 11W R Swindstre 4
	ED 8433	TARLE (13) (SP) (Harridon Al Maldourn) 8 His 38 11
13	30.0037	THESE WILD DAYS (15) (The by Synticols) Then 3 8 11 A Colours 7
14	. 0	Page will the state of the stat
15	400	ALL THE TIME (IQ (Capt.) Macronalo-Buchever) P Colo 3 8 5 1 Wester 15
16	3-0	AUTURN WINES (FT) (150) (N. Abrules 8 Hz. 388 Pat Entory 8
17	ø	CALCOURDO (NZ) (Man N Napar) E Waymes 3 8 5 Date (Share 19
18		CLEAR ASTRACTION (USA) (The Queen) Land Huntington 3 8 G D Remisco 1
19	0430	Pari Essery 14
20	-14	SINER SINGER (19) Pictor J Berry D Later 386
		= 20 declared =
		Short Singer, 5-1 Taidf, 11-2 Rossel, 7-1 Richelles, 10-1 Clear Attraction, Darine,
	17 7 7 7	Service Servic

12-1 Actorem Wings, All The Time, 54-1 Expendite Pleases, Projects, Modejiej, 16-1 others

1204 NW OL IMPR 2 9 8 th West 70-1 for April 75 cm.	
5.30 HAWTHORN MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (added 270 7f 30yds Penalty Value £4,320	
1 D BON PROGRESSICE COME Mercial Value & Co USD N Scott 90	X Palba 1
2 CLARGE COLOURS (ISA) STATE HEADERS PL 5 WHOTE 9 U =	———— A Marker 4
A Departy (13) Bark Protected & Decker 9D	
A . Inc city (42) Com 9 and W. land 9D	Pai Edday 8
5 4 NAME OF OUR BOTHER (USA) (LA) (Cal. CM Poets of 1993) J Bosts	19010etted 8
8 OCO WHAT MAN WASTE (SE II Claylette) J O'Ned 90	S D Williams 2
	A College 7
8 0 CERTAED (BISA) (20) (May J M Cortaett) 8 174 8 9	M HEAT
8 NAME CLOUD (AWHARD WHORD 89	Date Obser 3
-9 declared -	
SETTING 6-4 Dombey, 2-1 Name Of Our Folker, 7-2 Pag City, 7-1 Circled, 14 Classic Colors, 25-1 others	-1 Young Saffy, 16-1
Cassic Cologni, 42-4 (1998)	

The four principal have had just the role non-with DOMBEY comesting what would seem the strongled race. His half-setter Spout won over today's trip as a juvenile and Dombey has the chance to follow and after a steplay-on fourth of 23 to Peter Charpie-Hyem's Astor Place at Newmarket a formight, ago, improvement is with all assured from Fog City, whose dam won on her second juvenile start. He didn't seem to stride out too with on his Sandown debut when fourth to Buildhich and this scriber ground is more suitable, Name Of Gir Felther (5-2 out to 6-2) is probably capable of better after a Salabury run when fourth to Finel Stut. His dam won over further than this as a juvenile in America but that Salabury race may not have been up to much. Gireled needs to do better after showing into behind newcomer Wed Rumout et Newbury. Selections DOMBEY.

WETHERBY 3.20 YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES TV HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £4,750 added 2m HYPERION 2.20 Sarasi 2.50 Peruvian Gale 3.20 New Inn 3.50 Mr Jamboree 4.20 Down The Fell 4.50 Aritam GOING: Good to Firm.

Electrical oval circuit. Burnin of 200yds slightly uphill. El Course NE of town on B1224 or June of A68 and A1. ADMIS-SION: Club 512 (accompanied under-16s free); Tatteraule 1; Course 52 (OAPs 51) (curs, including up to 4 adults 56). CAR PARE: Free. - 5 declared -BETTING: 11-4 New Inc., 5-1 Stay Jonate, 7-2 Thornton Gate, 6-1 legis-terium, 8-1 Bond Sobie, 12-1 Dencing River, 16-1 others SIS All races 3.50 GORDON FOSTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds -5 declared -BETTRIC: 7-4 Tongood To Be True, 9-4 Mr Jamborse, 5-1 Merry Master, 5-1 De Jardena, 34-2 Resucedes:

2.	20 60	LDSE	OROUG D) £3,50	H NO	VICE I	HURDLE
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BETTE	62 4-1 Os 4	Pedestr	4. 9-2 Lane	E. 5-1 Bo	growty, 6-1	Doge Wed
			10-1 Days 1			

2.50 CHASE (CLASS F) £5,000 3m 110yds 2653/U-1 VRVASER (11) Mesi I. Russel 9 11 10 P Neven 550-43P SCARS (21) J O'Net 7 10 10 M Dayer 3613/53 PERUMAN GALE (7) Nes 8 Smith 6 10 8 Richard Guest

Minimum: 10st. The hosp weight Ask For Barney 9st Alb, Nandsky 8st Sib. BETTRE: 7-4 Ventsk; 100-30 Scarf, 7-2 Personan Gole, 8-1 Ask For Barney, 12-1 Kestelebay

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4.50 HURDLE (CLASS F) £5,000 added 3m 1f F-DV HURDLE (CLASS F) £5,000 and an action of 572244 SOUTH WESTERD' (216) Ms M Reveloy 7 11 10 ___ P Nimen 21 CHERRY POWER (22) M Water 8 11 5 _______ Callegians (5) P3PS-0 CAUNCH THEE (21) C Brood 8 10 4 ______ A Hogen (5) Ms 11 Encryse (178) 8 Rothwell 5 10 4 ______ R Supple 00PO WILLEROSS (176) 8 Retwell 5 10 4 ... 0225F-4 ARTIMA (32) 1 Car 5 10 1 ... 5 declared ... = 5 declared = 5 declared = 5 theory Polary, 11-2 Crusch Time, 5-1 Attam, 16-1 Willertons

RACING RESULTS

1.30: 1. DON MICHELETTO (M HER) 7-2; 2. Winter Romance 9-2; 3. Ballader 7-4 fas, 14 rms. nk. 4. (G Wragg, Neremarket). Tota: £7.90; £1.10, £1.30, £1.50. DF: £20.30. CSF: £20.13. Tito: £35.00. 2.00: 1.MASEHAAE (W.Carson) 2-15 fav. Marcie Laige 12-1: 3. Balouster 10-1, 4

LEICESTER

2.00: 1. MASPHARE (W. Carson) 2-15 for, 2. Margie Laife 12-1; 3. Baricustur 10-1. 4 res., 14, 9. (I Durbey, Arandel), Pote: £1.10. DF. £1.40, CSF. £2.31.
250: 1. MASPHART (J. Stack) 20-1; 2. Mary's Case 7-1; 3. Deepty Vale: 25-1; 4. Bluehing Grenodier 9-1. 20 san. 5-2 to Cape Colony (SCR), 4-2. 2 (N. Weller, Kingston Usie). Pote: £15-50; £1.10, £1.80, £2.60, £2.10. DF: £228.60. CSF: £15-8.69. Incast: £3.265.55. The £433.20.
3.00: 1. ALAWARE (G. Carter) 10-1; 2. 3.00: 1 ALJAWAB (G Darter) 10-1: 2 3.00: 1. ALMWAB (G Carter) 10-1; 2. Curtetico 11-2 tar, 3. Lady Highfield 16-1; 4. Rival Bid 7-1, 19 ran. Hd, rk. (J Dunlop, Aurude). Note: £10.90; £4.00, £1.80, £3.50, £3.10. DF: £37.00, £5. £57.42. Tracet: £844.99 Tht: £254.20. After a stew-ents' Inquity, Therries Side, who finished 2nd, was disquesified and placed less.

3.30: 1. BERGELEY BOUNDER (Pat Eddey) 11-5 tar; 2. Elementary 3-1; 3. Sea Victor 7-1 22 ran. 24, 24, 46, Php. Wellington). Rote: £2.70: £1.20, £1.90, £1.80. DF: £2.80. CSF: £7.59, kip: £7.00.

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4.00: 1. POREST BUCK (Pat Endery) 4-1 tav; 2. Byrush 8-1: 3. Lakeline Legend 5-1. 17 ran. 1½, 3. (4 Ced.), Neumarked: Tobes 64-40: 52.70, £3.70, £2.80. DF: £18.10. CSF: £38.13. Bro: £96.60. 4.30: 1. 6010 DISC (Pat Endery) 13-8 fax; 2. Alambar 16-1; 3. Domaik Amazen 9-4, 12 ma, 2-2, 34, (8 Hills), Tober £2-30; £1-20, £3-90, £1-60, DF, £33-40, CSF, £26-96, Teo: £12-20, NR: Young Mazagad. 5-00; 1. SHEMAQ (R Hills) £1-4 fax; 2. Karayla 5-1; 3. Rom's Secret 9-2; 8 ran. 4; 4;. 6! Thomson Jones, Newmarket). Tota: £3.10; £2.00, £3.20, £1.20, DF. £20.60.

Jackpot: Not wort. Pool of £31,140.25 to Hay-dock today. Placepet: £25.50. Quadpet: £19.10. Place 6: £56.28. Place 5: £41.03. CHEPSTOW

2.15: 1. IARSELON (J Rach) 11-2: 2. Gran-by Bell 14-1; 3. Carango 9-1; 4. Nossan Doro 25-1: 18 ran. 5-1 by Goriera: 1-, 1-4. (W Auk, (Embourn), Bote 57: 30; 52:00, 63:30, £1:50, £13:60, Dr. £79:00, CSP: £79:76, Tucset £649:85, Tro: £356:60. Incast 1549.65. Two: 1356.60. 2.45: 1. Struttune () Reid) 10-11 fev; 2. Cettle Flage 7-4; 3. Mass Hovenshara 9-2.4 can. 8, 114. (R Harmon, East Berleigh). Total £1.70. DP. £1.60. CSP. £2.74.

3.15; 1. #BEREEN (Decian Murphy) 3-1 fax; 2. Coo-lay-Ay 14-1; 3. Shapherd Mar-lett 10-1. 12 ran, %, 24; (G Lews), Rota: £3.20; £1.60, £3.40, £2.10, DF: £23.30. 63.20; £1.60, £3.40, £2.10. DF: £23.30. CSF. £41.42. The CASE £349.62. The £194.80. 3.45; 1. MEDIA EUPRESS (R COCHORE) 14-1; 2. Devisiong 11-2; 3. Dering Ryde 33-1.19 mm. 6-5 fav hibrales. 24; 34r. (M Brittin). Newmerkell. Brite: £21.20; £3.20. £1.90, £35.10. DF: £33.60. CSF: £96.44. The: £225.40. NR: Neeprob. 4.15; 1. SUBSEERO (K Darley 6-4 far; 2. Ne Monkey Nots 8-2; 3. Coffee in Gream 7-4. 8 ran. 27c. 24r. (M Stoute, Newmerkell, Poke £2.50; £1.10, £1.30, £1.60. DF: £5.40. CSF: £8.91. 4.45; 1. GHALAMONT U Reg) 10-11 fay; 2. Tradeligar Lady 8-2; 3. Wildwood Flower 20-1, 7 ran. 4r. in. (P. Chapple Hyam, Menton). Tota: £1.90; £1.10, £2.50. DF: £2.70. CSF: £5.35.

CSF: £5.35.
5.18: 1. TINUER OSMASTON U F Egan)
12-1: 2. To The Roof 16-1; 3. Domiclosky
7-1; 4. Leigh Crofter 9-1. 19 ran, 5-2 fev
Sing With The Band. 1, 1/4. (M Saunders,
Welsh, Tote: £13.70; £2.70, £3.80, £2.50,
£3.30. DF: £114.00. CSF: £193.38. Troost:
£1,349.65. Trot: £330.30. NP: Mibesime.
Placepot: £586.10. Quadpot: £44.20.
Place 6: £121.80. Place 5: £24.18. CSF: £5.35.

for Tonga

DAVE HADFIELD

last minute.

Papua New Guinea

For the second time in 48 hours,

Tonga were involved in a spell-

binding match, the outcome of

which was not resolved until the

they were hanging on desperately at times as the Papua New

Guinea captain, Adrian Lam, in-spired his side's comeback. A

crowd of more than 5,000 saw

Lam start the revival by taking

John Okul's pass to go over. When the diminutive Elias Paiyo

darted over from acting half-back

and kicked his second goal, Tonga knew they were in trouble. The PNG full-back, David

Buko, got away for a third try and Tonga could have succumbed to

exhaustion there and then had

Leigh's Tau Liku not ploughed

over to keep them eight points

in front Lam's clever kick sent

Stanley Gene in for a try which

again pointed to a PNG win, but Una Tanfa's touchdown for Ton-

RUGBY LEAGUE CENTENARY WORLD CUP: The man Australia fears most waits in the wings confident of wiping out past failures No justice

Offiah plans his grand entrance

The joker in the England rugby league pack shuffles his hare feet gingerly across the team hotel's breakfast room carpet, hobbling and yawning. All around him you can sense an atmosphere that tells you that the waiting is over, business has comm liced and England are on course for a storming World Cup.

Martin Offiah has remained aloof from all this. Feeling the effects of calf and ankle strains, the Wigan winger, and surely the higgest name and earner in British rugby league, has pur-posefully kept himself apart. hiding his time with a patience that exudes complete confidence in his own ability.

"There's no point in me go-ing through what the playing members of the team do until I know I am ready to play," he reasons, scratching his Gazzastyle peroxide crew cut. "That's why I've kept myself to myself. I reckon I should start against South Africa at the weekend. I'm almost there, but I'm not going to risk injuring myself for the whole World Cup. Not this World Cup.

Offiah's emphasis underlines the point that all the players realise that the big-time has arrived. Rugby league has suddenly become a powerful force, shaking off its apparently limited appeal to be suddenly accepted with welcoming arms.

"It's so important to win the World Cup," continues the season's leading try scorer. "Before, it's always been a hit of a farce. It was spread over a long period of time, didn't have enough teams, had failed to create any interest. Now, it's the new dawn, and if we can win the competitioo it will wipe out everything that's taken place before."

As starts go, England got off to a fiver against the tournament favourites, Australia, by beating them at Wembley last Saturday. It ensures what appears to be an easier passage to the final where, barring a major upset, they are likely to face the pre-

night, writes Dave Hadfield.

The director of referees for

the Halifax Ceotenary World

Cup, Greg McCallum, studied

the match video yesterday which revealed that Wales had

broken the rules. The extra

substitution took place when the

previously substituted Allan

FACE TO FACE

lan Stafford talks to the wing-heeled wonder of England tralia again. England would be well advised to focus oo the pre-

sent, and not the past. "Well, you're dead right there," the 29-year-old agrees. "Of course, it's better to have beaten Australia, but they are such a good side that they will be confident they'll get their act together and beat us next time. "I think heating Australia for a second, successive time, is

another hurdle which we have still to clear. When we beat them in Sydney in 1988, it shattered the myth that they were unbeatable, but since then Australia always seem to win 2-1, of-ten coming back from behind."

How a black lad from Hackney can even he discussing rugby league world cups is extraordinary. His game could quite easily have lost him to not

one but two other major sports.

"Most people now only see me as a rugby league player, but I was very close to first becoming a county cricketer," Offiah reveals, smirking almost selfconsciously. "I spent the sum-mer of '84 playing for Essex second XI, roomed with Nasser Hussain and bowled Graham Gooch out in the nets, Mind you, I also got hit for six by Allan Wells down at Hove.'

Who knows, this fast bowler and useful No 8 batsman, might have become the next Ian Botham, but the lure of rugby union, encouraged by his Ipswich boarding school, and then offers from Rosslyo Park, captured the speedy winger.

"If you had told me then that I would end up playing league, I would have laughed at you," he continues. "I used to hate watching league on television. It was violent, slow and just dreadful, and we all thought it was a ioke sport. It didn't have any of

The infringement has there-

fore been regarded as a genuine

accident and Wales can breathe

a sigh of relief that they have not

been punished in the same way

as the Auckland Warriors, who

had to forfeit a game after us-

ing an extra replacement in

the Winfield Cup last season.

day, when I was 15 years old, and walking down a street in Hackney during my school holidays. I decided to myself that I would play for England, but I meant in union, not league."

Instead, just when he was making people sit up and notice, and on the verge of leaving Rosslyn Park for Bath, Offiah suddenly found himself at Widnes in 1987. You would think that a young, black, East Londoner, faced with appalling racial taunts from the crowd. and the roughest, toughest game he had ever encountered, might be just a little fazed by this new life. But not Offiah.

"None of it ever bothered me. The racism only made me more excited when I played, and the shock of league didn't hit me like most former union players. I think it's because I've always known what I've wanted, and always I nown how to get it."

Of: th, now believed to be rugby .eague's highest earner a salary of more than £100,7(4) a year, was oot a big name when he left for the north, unlike most of his ex-union contemporaries. Would he consider trying out union again, now that the barriers have been removed between the two sports?

"You've got to be kidding, haven't you?" is his instant reply. "I've been too successful in league, and the game's been too good for me. Besides, the England union internationals will be on £40,000 a year, so I can't see how their game could justify pay-

ing me my salary.
If I'm honest, I would have liked to have made it in union first but if I could be transported back in time I still would have taken the same route again. It would be fun, though, to turn out for Rosslyn Park again, only because I honestly believe I'd have a field day."

The man known as "Chariots" "actually, oobody has ever called me that, apart from the media. At Wigan I'm known as Tin. as in Martin" - believes that playtoday's colour and dynamism. ers of the near future will not face the union or league dilemma. ers of the near future will not face tractive. The one advantage

been diagnosed as slight, which

does oot necessitate a stand-

Edwards, has angrily denied Australian claims that he racial-

ly abused their Tongan winger,

The England captain, Shaun

down period.



Leagues ahead; Martin Offiah is ready to light up the World Cup

The two codes will definitely come together in the next five to 10 years, and when they do I can see the game of league being the dominant force. The non-committed, paying public will always prefer to watch a league game because it is designed to be far more at-

said about Hopoate would

cause such a commotion." Ed-

wards said. "But it is absolute-

ly ridiculous to say that I racially

abused him during the match. I'm a Christian and I would nev-

is a bigger, world-wide sport. When the codes are merged, union will see themselves as a large, corporate company taking over a smaller business with a better idea."

Meanwhile, Offish has other matters on his mind. Not following, he hopes, in the disastrous footsteps of some of

feated South Africa 52-6 in

their starting line-up to meet

England at Wigan tonight. The prop forward, Malakai Yasa

replaces Malakai Kaunivalu,

who was injured at Keighley.

WHO WAS III LITTLE AT A CAREGUREY-PUT (v England Wigner, tonight, 7,30): So-vistalman (Carparters Motors Parthers); Detailings (Perrist), Neighoff Perrist, out). Seru South Queenstand), Neighoff Perrist, Detail; Neighor

WORLD CUP UPDATE

Photograph: Peter Jay

cessors, he has made a dance record which, he hopes, Arista will release in January.

More immediately, Offiah plans to sing a different song for England in the World Cup, even if he still hobbles back to his-

room. "It's not important that I won't have been there for the start," he concludes. "It's the end

Wales escape despite going a sub too far Davies, who was taken to Saturday. Edwards had accused someone because they were of

also oot of the tournament.

meot despite making five replacements—one more than the
placements—one more than the
permitted oumber—in their victory over France oo Monday

Taking with the blood-bin rule.

Davies, who was taken to Samirday, Edwards nad accused to Hopoate of unsporting behaviour in sledging England's debutory over France oo Monday

Samirday, Edwards nad accused to Someone because they were of the blood bin rule.

Samirday, Edwards nad accused to Samirday, Edwards nad accused to Hopoate of unsporting behaviour in sledging England's debutory over France oo Monday

Samirday, Edwards nad accused to Someone because they were of the blood bin rule and different race. My own girliour in sledging England's debutory over France oo Monday

Western Samoa in Swansea oo after a mistake in the tournatory over France oo Monday

Samirday, Edwards nad accused to Samirday, Edwards nad accused to different race. My own girliour in sledging England's debutory over France oo Monday

Western Samoa in Swansea oo after a mistake in the tournatory over France oo Monday

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Western Samoa in Swansea oo after a mistake in the tournatory over France oo Monday

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Western Samoa in Swansea oo after a mistake in the tournatory over France oo Monday

Samirday, Edwards nad accused to different race. My own girliour in sledging England's debutory over France oo Monday

Western Samoa in Swansea oo after a mistake in the tournatory over France oo Monday

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Samoa in Swansea oo after a mistake in the tournatory over France oo Monday

Wigan's French forward Gael Tallec will miss the rest of the World Cup after tearing a groin muscle during the defeat by Wales. The utility backs David Despin (dislocated shoulder) and Stephane Millet, who damseed a hamstring in training, are

There were few hints of such a tense finish in the first-half, as Tonga played with the same measures of vigour and virtuosity they had shown against New

ga looked to have put them safe

as they staggered into the last few minutes. Withio seconds of the

end of normal time, however.

Lam got his pass away to Lucas

Solbat and Pulyo's fourth goal

tied the scores.

atvia

refuses to

Megians

Pac

There would be no greater in-Zealand. Awen Guttenbeilwent stice in the Halifax Ceotenary over for two tries, prompted in World Cup than a side which both cases by Duane Mann. Phil has showed so much skill and Howlett then scored by taking a passion going home without a weak drop-out quite brilliantly win, but their exertions at Warand running in from 40 metres. When PNG failed to turn rington on Sunday caught up with them at Hull last night. Leading 20-0 at half-time,

pressure inru points before halftime and Tonga instead scored a fourth try through Willie Wolfgramm, it seemed they had the cushion they needed.

PNG now have to beat New Zealand tomorrow to reach the semi-finals. Lam said: "There have been shocks already and we have been shocks already and we feel we can produce another."
PAPUA NEW GENER BUILD GENERAL THE REPORT OF HARDY AND GENERAL BUILD RECORD THE RESEARCH OF MACHINE THE RESEARCH AND THE MACHINE THE RESEARCH TO THE RESEARCH THE RESEARCH TO WHITE THE RESEARCH TO WASTER, SALE THE RESEARCH TO WASTER, SALE THE RESEARCH TO WASTER, AND THE RESEARCH TO WASTER, AND THE RESEARCH TO WASTER, AND THE RESEARCH TO WASTER, THE RESEARCH TO WASTER, THE RESEARCH TO WASTER, THE RESEARCH THE R

Murdoch sees victory ahead

Rupert Murdoch, the media magnate, yesterday predicted victory in his fight for control of Australian rugby league, Mur-doch said the power struggle with the Australian Rugby League, the sport's national ruling body, would be settled in

his favour within two years.
"I will win and the ARL will collapse, whether it will be this year or the year after I don't know," Murdoch told reporters after his News Corporation's ananal meeting in Adelaide.

Murdoch set off a civil war in March when he signed many of the country's leading players for the rebel Super League, which is due to kick off next March in competition with the ARL.

Asked if he would consider a compromise, Murdoch replied: "No. They [the ARL] will have to go away. It is hard to deal with people like that," Murdoch said. "There is too much emotion involved and

too much money. News Ltd, the local arm of Murdoch's media empire, is embroiled in a court case with determine the Super League's immediate future,

Murdoch began the court action in an attempt to remove eight chibs, including Sydney Buildogs and Brisbane Broncos. from ARL jurisdiction, allowing them to defect to Super League next year.

In a counter-claim seeking damages against News Ltd, the ARL claims the clubs are bound to the existing competition until 2000. A victory for the ARL in Sydney's federal court would delay the Super League's kick-off for 12 months: "We felt it was essential to attack the mocopoly in rugby league in Svdney," Murdoch said.

Murdoch is planning to broadcast Super League matches oo his worldwide pay televisioo interests, including the Foxtel cable system in Australia, due to be launched later this month. Murdoch's rival, Kerry Packer, holds ARL rights until the year 2000. Packer also plans to broadcast the matches on Optus Vision, a rival tu Footel, in which he has a five per the ARL which is expected to ceot stake.

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Wales have escaped punish- Bateman came back oo for

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POOLS FORECAST AND FIXTURES

36 Rochdala v Culch

29 Scarborough v Lincoln.

Premier Division

47 Oundee Utd v St. Johnstone . 48 Oundeeuten v St. Johnstone .

46 Periot v Ranger First Division

Sunday. His concussion has been diagnosed as slight, which "I didn't realise that what I

John Hopoate, at Wembley on er stoop so low as to abuse

-	to cause trousersup
•	1 Aston Ville v Chelsea 1
	2 Blackburn v Southampton
	S Bolton v EveroonX
	4 Locas v Arsorial
•	5 Uverpool v Coventry1
•	6 Man Utd v Man City
	7 QPR v Newcastle2
	S Tottenham v Ploton ForestX
•	Playing Sunday: Sheffeld Wed v Middles-
	brough. Playing Monday: Wirnbladon v Wast Harr.
-	Endsteigh League First Division
•	9 Gristoby v Oldhert
•	10 Letoester v Cherton1
	11 Lutur v West GromX
	12 Norwich v Barneley
-	13 Partsmouth v Birminghern
•	14 Reading v HuddersfieldX
•	15 Southend v Sheffield Utd1
•	16 Sunderland v Watford1
•	Also playing (not on coupons): Derby v (pawich;
•	Militally Barknere: Wolfesthemptony Styles, Play-
•	ing Sunday: Port Vale v Crystal Palace.
	Second Division
•	17 Blackpool v Chesterfeld1
•	18 Bournemouth v Burniny1
•	19 Bradford v Bristol Rovers
•	20 Brighton v Swindon
	21. Bristol City v Hull
	22 Crews v Cartele
•	28 Notes County v Rotherhern1
	24-Peterborough v SwarmenX
	26 Strewsbury v York
	25 Stockport v Bremtord
	27 Wresham v Oxford Uts
	28 Wycombe v Walsall1
	Third Division
	29 Cardiff v Sarret
	30 Derlington v @fingham2
	31 Doncaster v Hereford1
	32 Exeter v Wigari

Second Division Third Division Football

Brescia v Ipovicti (8,30) . Registere v Southend ___ fet Herdturm stadium, Zurich) Iceland v Turies (9.0) (at Laugardelandtur stadium, Rayli GROUP FOUR Slovenie v Uky

and (5.30)

(at Labrier Statism, Moscowi, INTERNALIONAL, FRIENDLES MOTWAY & England (B.L.IS)
(at USecels Statism, Color)
Swadom v. Scottmed (7.0)
(at Risunde statism, Scina),
ANGLO-FELIAN CURINTERNALIONAL STREET GROUP A
Genoe v. Labor (B.SO)
Oldmen v. Ceseus (7.45)
Perrigite v. Stronighem (B.SO)
Port Vale v. Ancessa (7.45)
GROUP B.
GRO

Stoke v Selemitama (7.45) West Brosselch Albion v Fogela (7.45) PA.CUP Third qualifying round replayes Durham City v Bancov (7.30); Storngourne v Bromey, Solihuli v Hadneslord (7.45). Unescen LEAGUE Promier Divisions Boson Uni v Emisy. First Divisions Bradlerd Park Avenue v Affetter, Custon Astron v Viennigtori, Leigh RM, v Worldington. GREAT MILLS LEAGUE Premier Division: Barristope v Bactwell; Bactwell of Creditor, Breington v Promet Bridgent v Emore.

PROPERTY STREET OF THE PROPERTY STREET, STREET PAMPANON'S PROMES Y WOODS.

PEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division:
Feinstone v Comarti, Sowmarke v Lowestot.
NORTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE First, Divialors, Rossendole v Eastwood Harriey.
UNUALT SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE FIRST Divialors Coleccod v Hassocks, Portledt v Shorenen. BLSTER CLP Send-Breat General v Ports

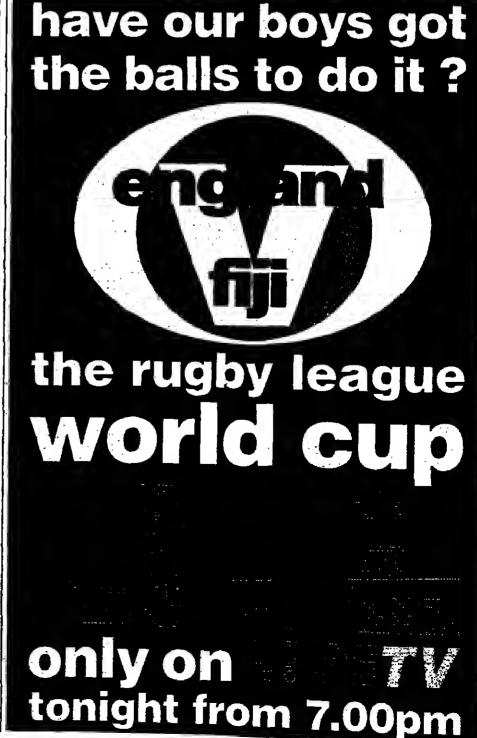
PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Notting and Forest v Liversool (7.0); Rammere v Shelfield Wednesdey (7.0); Second Division: Barnsley v Stadpool (7.0); Bursley v Bradlord City (7.15); Huildenslield v Aston Ville (7.0); Huil City v Sturperent (7.0); Christics Bury v Sturperent (7.0); Theories Bury v Sturperent (7.0); Theories County v Sturperent (7.0); Theories County v Sturperent (7.0); Theories County v Rochdele (7.0); Wigan v Daresser (7.0); AVON RISURANCE DOMERNHOON First Division: Brighton v Listen (2.0); Britis (City v Noviet's Crystal Palsoe v Southernston (7.0) (st Duwish Harried, Second Division League Capel

Rugby Union

Speedway
PREMER LENGUE: Hull v Peterborough (7.30).
CHALLENGE MATCH: Long Estan v Crodley Heath
v Wolkechampton (7.30).

Rugby League HALIFAX CENTENARY WORLD CUP

CLUS MUTCHES: Harlequins v Eletar University (7:30): Newcastle Gosford v Durham University (7:30): Regay v HA Prisons (7:30); Sessions v Brunel University (7:30) (at imber Court). REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Mid-Ger Pernbrokeshke (7.15) (at Manney).



INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL: Republic of Ireland to bank on Babb while Gould faces Germany without Rush and Hughes

Latvia threaten Charlton legend

reports from Dublin

The sight of teenaged girls literally fighting over a plastic water bottle discarded by Phil Babb confirmed yesterday that football and celebrity continue to be on intimate terms in the Republic of Ireland.

Whether the relationship and the tenure of Jack Charlton which made it possible could withstand defeat hy Latvia at Lansdowne Road conight must be open to

At the age of 60, and after almost a decade of unprecedented success as manager, Charlton suddenly finds his reputation on the line in the Republic's penultimate game in Group Six of the European Championship qualifying

favourite Englishman. Banners adom pubs boasting that theirs is "Big Jack's favourite bar". His grizzled features are still in demand with advertisers. But the last World Cup was a watershed for the Republic; no longer was it considered sufficient mercly to reach the finals of major tournaments. The events leading up to Latvia's visit have therefore been a shock to the

Portugal, which perhaps en-

ed that he has no intention of

giving up international football. even if Northern Ireland do not

Reading's joint player-manager needs two goals to equal

qualify for Euro '96.

Quinn refuses to give up

Jimmy Quinn, who is expected 36 next month be said: "I will to win his 45th cap against carry on playing until I fall Liechtenstein today, has insist-over. When you reach my age

couraged delusions of class in No 3", as Charlton inimitally a team who are at their best identified him. His penchant for when playing destructively. It counter-attack brought Latvia was followed by June's 0-0 draw in Liechtenstein who, to put things in perspective, then lost 7-0 at home to the Portuguese. Then came two 3-I losses to Austria, which have left Charlton's men needing to break the worst sequence of results during his reign just to maintain realistic hopes of sharing in next

summer's bonanza. Put simply, if they were to lose and Austria beat Portugal tonight, the Republic would be out. In the event of the Irish and the Austrians both winning. Chariton would still have to conjure a victory in Lisbon next month. Even if Ireland and Austria finished level on points, the latter would go through by virtue of having won both fix-tures between them.

Charlton's reluctance to re-Charlton remains Ireland's veal his line-up, as he normally does the day before a match, was a sign of the stakes for which he and the Republic are playing. However, he made it clear that the over-commitment to attack which characterised his midfield in Vienna, combined with an awareness of Latvia's tendency to play on the break, have convinced him to deploy an anchoring player in

The individual whose capac-Matters were proceeding ity to inflict damage concerns well enough until the defeat of him most is Vitaly Astafiev, The dark-haired lad who wears

both goals in their 2-1 success in Northern Ireland, the first of three consecutive wins, with the Israeli-based Armands Zeiberlins also scoring in each of those games

"At international level these days, players don't pass the ball through midfield - they come at you," Charlton said. "You can't let them run at your defence, but the problem is that we've no natural holding player in midfield like we used have with Paul McGrath and Mark Lawrenson."

Ronnie Whelan would, m fact, have been ideal, but is neither fit nor in favour. The three candidates, Charlton intimated, were Babb, Jason McAteer and Jeff Kenna McAteer, whose in-clination is to go forward, scarcely fits the job description, while Kenna may be too naturally husy to maintain the req-

Switching the pacy Babh to partner Andy Townsend has the drawback of necessitating changes to two departments. But unless Charlton was dealing in Dublin Bay red herrings again, the Liverpool defender appears the likeliest choice to plug the "hole" between mid-field and a back four in which McGrath's 78th cap will bring him level with Packie Bonner's

Charlton has always said he would leave when the fans no longer wanted him. Whatever happens tonight, he is expected to see out the qualifying campaign. Yet even if the Republic make it to England, there are those in Ireland who would like him to announce publicly that it will be jus swansong. That way, the legend could stay intact.
REPUBLE: OF RELAND (probable; 4-4-2):
A namy (sheffield United): 6 Namy (sheffield United); 6 Namy (sheffield United); 8 Namy (sheffield United); 8 Namy (sheffield United); 8 Namy (sheffield United); Namy (



every game is a bonus, but a lot of players are persuaded to retire too early. John Aldridge is still knocking in the goals at 37." NORTHERN (RELAND (probable): Fettls (Hull): Morrow (Avanta), Huetter (Wresham). Hell (Lebestan), Worthington (Lebesta, Mcthalland (Cotton Land), Mcthalland (Cotton Land). Hell (Received Land). Hell (Cotton Cotto). Lands (Marchager City). Lengths (West Ham). Colin Clarke's record of 13 in Water works: the Republic's Phil Babb drinks deep yesterday Depleted Wales try to defy the odds

GUY HODGSON

reports from Cardiff

Late 1.5

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 $(\mathbf{t}_{i},\mathbf{v},\mathbf{r}_{i},\mathbf{r}_{i},\mathbf{r}_{i},\mathbf{r}_{i},\mathbf{r}_{i},\mathbf{r}_{i})$

manager, put on the tape of Germany's last match he saw tape was going at twice the normal speed did not help, but rven when that fault was remedied the sight was only slightly

less scary.
Although the Germans have not always fired at the optimum the dressing-room at Cardiff rate during their European Arms Park tonight with anything Championship qualifying cam-paign - notably last April when hut an inferiority complex is a compliment to Gould who, if they drew 1-1 with Wales in Düsseldorf - they did on Sun-

Moldova 6-1. On Gould's tape, even when Jürgen Klinsmann When Bobby Gould, the Wales and company got slower the goals still accumulated rapidly.

"It was recorded on fast forward wind," he said. "Everyone something that he described as was moving at 200mph. Frightfrightening. The fact that the ening. We haven't shown the players any of it yet, but we might just show them the Moldovan goal so they can go out with PMA - positive mental attitude."

The fact that Wales can leave the gloom that descended on terms of personnel and position.

day when they slaughtered the squad during Mike Smith's time in charge. That was achieved with a win over Moldova last month, their first success in a year, but beating Germany is a different matter.

Gould equated the prospect to Wimbledon's FA Cup final win over Liverpool in 1988. "It would be up there with the finest moment of my manage-rial career," he said. "Like winning the lottery, you couldn't imagine it until it happened."

As with the lottery, the odds of winning are not great. Wales are without six players, including the injured Ian Rush and Mark Hughes, and it will be an nothing else, has brushed away unfamiliar line-up tonight in

Stephen Jenkins, of Swansea, will make his debut while Mark Bowen, Nathan Blake and Gary Speed fill roles they normally leave to others at club level in a 3-5-2 formation that will rely for forward impetus on swift breaks by Ryan Giggs and Dean Saunders.

Bowen will play at sweeper, a position he comfortably filled for Norwich against In-ternazionale in the Uefa Cup two years ago, while Speed will operate as a wing back on the left. The most surprising change, however, is of Blake, a striker with eight goals this sea-son for Sheffield United, who

when he was manager at bave, not surprisingly, named Coventry and, as a consequence, is more aware of his ova with Klinsmann as captain. adaptability than most. "Tve seen him play centre-back, centre-forward, left wing and

now midfield," he said. "If Nathan gets hold of his ability and takes it in the right direction he could be something a lot of people would enthuse about. I'd like to lock him in a room with Ryan Giggs for a week and let him learn how that young man performs under pressure week in, week out." Blake is more likely to be locked in a midfield test of

skills where Thomas Hässler and becomes a midfield player.

Gould wanted to buy Blake

Dieter Eilts will probably throw away the key. The Germans

The former Tottenham player missed a number of chances on Sunday, including a secondhalf penalty which, on the basis of lightning not striking in the same place twice, is probably ominous for Wales. "If you move around a lot as a striker," the German said of Englishstyle defences yesterday, "that creates a lot of confusion." MALES (3-2): Southell (Evenon): Symmes (Merichester United), Bowen (Norwich), Methille (Symmesea), Blaice (Sheffield United), Home (Evenon), Pembridge (Sheffield Wednosday), Speed (Leods); Giggs (Manchester United), Samiders (Gaistissany).

GERMANY: A Köpke; M Bebbel, C Ziege, S Fraund, T Hehrex, M Sammer, A Möller, O Eles, J Kiknsmann, T Hässler, H Herrich.

England Under 21

Despite playing against 10 men for almost half the match. Eng-land's youngsters were held to a 2-2 diew by their Norwegian counterparts in last night's Under the international friend-

ly in Strainger.
Northy took the lead just be-fore the break through Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, but they lost a man soon after the interval when Steinar Pedersen was sent off for dissent.

Tottenham's Sol Campbell shrugged off four challenges be-fure equalising with a ficroe shot

in the 62nd minute, and Huddersfield's Andy Booth put land receiving a £2,000 fine land receiving a £2,000 fine striker, will win his ninth cap in the friendly against Sweden in in the 62nd minute, and Hudrange strike in the 77th minnte. duct of the team"... However, a spectacular goal from Andreas Lund brought

from time. . Uefa, European football's governing body, yesterday handed a four-match international ban to the Bolton Wanderers winger, Alan Thompson, following his sending-off in the European Under-21 Championship defeat in Portugal last month.

Norway level three minutes

Bookings for three more players - Philip Neville, Robbie Elliott and Chris Bart-Williams

CUCK Of the Death ...

NORMAY UNDER-21: Ulls (EK): S Pedecsen (Start), K Pedecsen (Odf), Lundotwarn (Brann), Has higher from (Kongsvinger), Iversen (Rosenborg Trondhenn), Larsen (Stabesk), Hastad, Florid, Solarijaner (all Molde), Lund (Start), Substituter; Michaleen (Bodorgang for Solarijaner, 50; Fugiesten (Viking Staveriger) for Lundskern, 57; KO Florotoft (Hodd) for Lundskern, 57; KO Florotoft (Hodd) for Lundskern, 58; Kongson (Rosenborg) for herson, 89; Bjorken (Bodordikm) for Lund, 89.

Pedet Aum (MURER-21: 1) Weigen (Romaled)

tor Lund, 89.

EXCLAND LINDEN-21: II Watson (Bernsley);
S Westeon (Nemosistie), Gordon (Crystal Palson), Pearce (Blackburn), Caraphell (Rottenhern), Lesseorth (Eventori), Reberts (Cystal Palson), Pellicok (Middlesbrough), Shipperley (Southempton), Booth (Hudensleid), Josephin (Leocistar), Southethuker, P. Newille (Namchester Util) for 6 Watson, 65; Bosyer (Chariton) for Campbell 65; Holland (Newcastle) for Politick, 65; Dichle (Queen's Park Rungera) for Booth, 68. Referen: K Fisker (Denmark).

Norwegians rescued by Lund Scots scramble for starting roles

the friendly against Sweden in Stockholm's Rasunda stadium and elbow his way into the bat-tle to become a Scotland regular at next summer's European

Championship finals. McGinlay, who went to the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain as a supporter, wants to avoid being left in merely a support-ive role next June. Today he plays alongside the recalled John Robertson, of Hearts.

While Scotland are playing the Swedes, their fate in qualifying Group Eight could be decided in Moscow where Russia face Greece. If the Greeks fail

SPORTING DIGEST

place in the group and the qual-ification calculations can begin. "I do not think there's such

thing as a friendly game and cer-tainly not in our case with it being so important to impress the manager," McGinlay said yes-terdsy. "Even just making the squad for the finals, if we qual-ity, would be great for me." He and Robertson are paired

in the absence of Ally McCoist, Duncan Ferguson, John Spencer and Aberdeen's Scott Booth who is in Stockholm but unfit. Aberdeen's Stewart McKimmie will play in a back-three sys-tem with Blackburn's Colin

Hendry and Colin Calderwood of Tottenham. The full-backs -Celtic's Tom Boyd and Chelsea's Craig Burley - will push forward to support.
With the Swedes lacking

Jonas Thern and Martin Dahlin, Alan McLaren, of Rangers, could be given a marking joh on Tomas Brolin. Scotland are unbeaten in sev-

en matches during which they have conceded only one goal a penalty against Ecuador. a periotry against Ectarion, today:
Leighton (Hiseman): Molfilmenie (Aberdeen).
Caldarwood (Foterham). Hendry (Black-burn), Berley (Chelsea), McAllister (Lects), McLaran (Rangers), Collins (Celbc), Boyd (Celbc), Robertson (Hengers), McClarky (Bolin). Substitutes: Goraen (Rangers), McKlinky (Durdee United), Mevin (Rangers), Jacks (Aberdeen), Jackson (Hiseman).

Losers still in with a chance

It has been a topsy-turvy qual-ifying campaign for next summer's European Championship in England. It is not often that a team lose to Luxembourg and then emerge as the favourites to win their group and qualify antomatically.

That, however, is just what the Czech Republic have done this year. In June they lost 1-0 in Luxembourg, but since that embarrassment they have taken four points off Norway and, with just a home game against Luxembourg to come, are well placed to take Group Five.

This section should produce the most gripping of all the concluding group matches on 15 November: the Netherlands at home to Norway. If the Dutch beat Malta in Valletta tonight and then beat the Norwegians, and the Czechs gain their revenge against Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia and the Netherlands will finish first and second while Norway, leaders at present, will be out.

The winners of the eight groups will book their tickets to England but the second-placed finishers will be at the mercy of a complex grading system devised by Uefa (see below). Six of the eight runners-up go through while the other two face a playoff at Anfield in December. In Group One, Romania

Rupert Metcalf analyses a complex set of possibilities on

the road to Euro '96 need one point at home to France tonight to ensure qualification. Second place will be closely contested by France,

one of these three could well end up at the Antield play-off. Spain and Denmark have booked top-two places in Group Two - Belgium and the rest are out. Spain will win the section tonight if they avoid de-feat in Copenhagen. Switzer-land and Turkey are assured of the top two places in Group Three - the other section which is likely to send a team to Anfield. Sweden, World Cup semi-

Poland and maybe Slovakia -

finalists last year, are out. It will require a series of up-sets to prevent Croatia and tt-aly filling the top two berths in Group Four. Group Six is so close that fifth-placed Northern Ireland could still finish second. Portugal will win the section if they heat Austria tonight. Bul-garia and Germany have secured the top two slots in Group Seven while, again, only a most unlikely sequence of results can prevent Russia and Scotland doing likewise in Group Eight.

Euro '96: the story so far

Recombing Halman: Resigns Decrines, v Speins Cypres v Macedada. 25.11.95 Cypres v Scigues; Decrysts v America, Spein's Macedonie.

Reciniting Charact Bouldt Scounce v Ureline; Libustne v Estonie. 11.11.95 Italy v Ureline; 15.11.95 Siciente v Cronce; Italy v Libustne.

Group Five Girosap Five:

Resealth: Canch Republic 8 Make 1, Licenthoung
O Netherlands 4, Norwey 1, Belanus Q; Belanus
2 Licenthoung Q; Norwey 1, Belanus Q; Belanus
2 Licenthoung Q; Norwey 1, Netherlands 1; Malts 0 Cacch Republic Q; Belanus 0, Norwey 4;
Netherlands 6 Darich Republic Q; Norwey 2; Netherlands 6 Norwey
1; Notherlands 5 Darienthoung Q; Belanus 1;
Licenthoung 1, Casch Republic 3 Notherlands 1; Norwey 5; Linianthoung Q; Norwey 2; Melts Q; Licenthoung 1, Casch Republic 3 NotherLinianthoung 1, Casch Republic 3 NotherLinianthoung 1, Norwey 1; Casch Republic 1;
Casch Republic 2; Norwey 1; Casch Republic 1;
Casch Republic 2; Norwey 1; Linianthoung 2; Melts Q; Netherlands 1; Balanus Q; Belanus 0; Casch
Republic 2; Norwey 1; Linianthoung 2; Melts Q; Netherlands 1; Balanus Q; Belanus 0; Casch
Republic 2; Norwey 1; Linianthoung 2; Mel
ts Q; Netherlands 1; Balanus Q; Belanus 0; Casch
Republic 2; Norwey 1; Linianthoung 2; Mel
ts Q; Netherlands 1; Balanus Q; Belanus 0; Casch
Republic 2; Norwey 1; Linianthoung 2; Mel-

The finals England will host the final stages from 8-30 June 1996. The final will be at Wembley on 30 June. England, on hosts, qualify automatically for the finals but Denmark, the notices, do not.

The eight group winners qualify, as do the Sk best second-placed teams. The remaining two second-placed teams will play off at Artificial, Unexpool, on 13 December for the 16th and last place in the finals. a own makes terms awas on pourse, are reseased will she bind genres between the stems concerned will clearmine placings, not good difference. The or-idar of the second-based speaks will be descriptment at the end of the qualifying hoursoment and is based on results achieved against the first, third and fourth-placed severe in each growth-placed are

NAMENT (Outrava) Singles first round: W Forreira (SA) bt O Juredia (C: Repi 6-1 6-4:) Winnark (Neth) bt J Franz (Arg) 3-6 7-5 7-6: P Kuhmen (Gen bt G Rusedski (GB) 1-6 6-3 7-6.

1-6 6-3 7-6.
COREL CHAMPTONS OVER-35 EVENT (Nitton head, SC). Final: J Connors (US) bt 8 Borg (Sue) 6-3 4-6 6-3.
WOMEN'S PORSICHE GRAND PROX (Fiderstant), Gay Stogles that round: 5 Appelmans (Be) bt S Hack (Ger) 6-4 6-1; J Halard (Fri bt M Menglature (Ger) 7-5-6-1; N Zuerou (Bela) bt M Hings (Swit) 6-4 6-4; 8 Schutz-McCartly (Neth) bt I. Raymond (US) 6-4 7-5.

Injury fears played down by Stewart

Alee Stewart vesterday dismissed reports that he needed a check up on his suspect right index finger before leaving with England on their tour of South Africa next week.

Stewart bad a net at The Oval with the Bugisand batting cosch, John Edrich, but denied it was to test the finger, which he broke for the third time in eight moralism July and which thou kept him out of action for

the rest of the season. el think there has been some duff information," the England vice-captain said. "It was not a fitness test. It was just a net with John Edrich because he is the England batting coach and he testing out a special plastic timate aim being qualification splint, but everything is OK. I'm for the 16-nation finals in Spain in 1997.

Bucknall back but Dunkley out for England

England will be aiming to bounce back from their openingmatch disaster in the European Championship semi-final round when they face Estonia at the Granby Halls in Leicester tonight. England were thrashed 94-67

by Latvia in Riga on Sunday, but Steve Bucknall has recovered from a hand injury and plays against Estonia tonight, al-though Badalona's Spencer Dunkley is missing owing to a

knee injury.
Tonight's match is England's second in a series of 10 they will play over two years in their pool, which residues as nations. Eng-land officence, such of their five rivals at home and away, the ul-timate aim being qualification

American football London Monarche and Scottish Clay mores, Britain's two World League rep

London Moriettie and Scottish Claymores, Britain's two World League representatives, will meet at White Hart Lane on 14 April, the Opening weekend of the 1996 season. Defending champions Frankfurt Gallacy will begin their campeign away to German hydis Rhein Fire in Düsseldorf in the season's curtain-raiser on 13 April.

LONDON MONARCHS: 14 April v Scottish Claymores (home, 3.0); 20 April v Frankfurt Gallacy way, 7,0); 27 April v Rhein Fre (away, 7,0); 6 May v Berselora Dragors (home, 3.0); 11 May v Ametardam Admirate (home, 3.0); 2.1 May v Admirate finers, 3.0); 2.1 May v Admirate finers, 3.0); 2.1 May v Admirate finers, 3.0); 2.1 May v Berselora Dragors from 3.0); 2.1 May v Research (home, 3.0); 1.1 May v Ferndunt Callacy (home, 3.0); 1.1 May v Ferndunt Callacy (home, 7.0); 1.1 May v Ferndunt Callacy (home, 7.0); 1.1 May v Ferndunt Callacy (home, 7.0); 1.2 May v Rhein Fire floore, 3.0); 2.5 May v Gallacy (home, 3.0); 1.1 June v Admirate (home

WESTERN DIVISION

Kensee City __5 1 0 147 105
Omitiond __5 1 0 183 79
Denver __3 3 0 134 116
San Diegs __9 3 0 104 114
Seattle ___2 3 0 65 132 Athletics The eight times Olympic champion Carl Lewis has asked for the schedule for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics events to be arranged so that he can compete

in the 100m, '200m and long jump. Lewis's competitot, Michael Johnson, has also asked the International Ame-teur Athletic Federation to avoid clash-es in scheduling the 200m and 400m so he can compete in both events.

Basketball

The House Rockets will put America's reputation on the line by competing in the unofficial World Club Championships at the London Area later this month. The Rockets will defend the NBA's record of never having lost to for-eigh opposition as they face five other national champions at the McDonaki's ngitonial champions at the McConsid's Championiships from 19-21 October. McConALD's CHAMPIONSIBPs: Game One (19 October): Bucker Bologra v Maccabi Tel Aver (6.0), Game Two: Roal Macho's Sheffeld Shedis (3.0). Gene Two: Roal Macho's Sheffeld Shedis (3.0). Gene Three (30 October): White game one v womer game two (7.0). Game Pour. Perth Wildords or North Mebours Gierrs v Houston Rockets (9.30). Fifth place play-off (21 October): Losets game one and two (11.30): Third place play-off Loses game three and four (2.0): Championship finals Winners game three and four (6.0).

Cricket Derbyshire are predicting a profit of £120,000 this season – double the record they set last year. It represents an estonishing turnaround by a club which just over two years ago was fac-

SUSPENSIONS FA Carting Promissible and Endadgh tosurance League Division One: Sendings-Offic Nigel Specimen (Chelsea)

three matthes from 14 October; ian Bright-well (Manchester City) one match from 14 Oc-tober; David Hinst (Sheffield Wednesday) two matches from 14 October; I Currly (Ottenham Norspun) one match from 16 October; Gery Structer (Notte County) one metch from 17 October; Mark Raviers (Wokes) one match from 14 October; Dane Whiterhouse (Sheffield Utd) three matches from 14 October; Jon Gittens (Portsmouth) one match from 14 October, 21 penalty pointes Ben Thattener (Natwell) three matches from 18 October. TRANSFER: Joe Alion (striker) Lincoln City to

Hardepool United. MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: UNBOOND MUNDAT'S LATE RESOLUTION UTIL 2 After ton LR 1. BORBY SWITH TESTIMONIAL: Swansee Cby XI 3 (D Thomas, Grobbelser pen, Walker) Wales XI 1 (Huggins).

GOIF
US PGA TOUR Leading money wineers (US undess stated): 1 G Norman (Aus) \$1,567,358 (1992,000); 2 L largen \$1,323,169; 3 C Pewn \$1,074,579; 4 P Jeachers \$1,074,576; 6 C Pewn \$1,074,579; 4 P Jeachers \$1,074,576; 6 C Pewn \$1,074,176; 4 P Jeachers \$1,006,241; 8 D Jeac \$1,004,349; 7 S Elargeno; (Aus) 1988,852; 8 V Segn (Fig. 9910,712; 9 B Meylar \$841,192; 1 0 0 Duvis \$701,156; 11 P Stewart \$788,819; 12 M Calcavecenta \$788,202; 13 E ES (SA) 5781,990; 14 M O'Mesera \$780,729; 15 T Jehrman \$753,A31; 16 S Moto \$743,443; 17 J Haes \$732,359; 18 N Fedo (98) \$719,561; 19 6 Ilway \$709,646; 20 K Perny 701,088.

GYPTHE2STECS
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Sabso, Jupun)
Mon's Apparatus timaler Vasit: (I.e. G. Misrom
(Ilan), A Nemor (Pasis) 9,755;ts; 3 V Schrebo
(Bele) 9,662; 4 A Voropeer (Pasis) 9,837; 6 C.
Leris (Rom) 9,508; 6 Y Hong-chul (S Kot) 9,550;
7 Li Macchuang (Chi 9,412; 8 A bencaissou
(Rom) 8,312; Parallel (Barss 1, Schrebo 9,812;
2 H Liping (Chi) 9,750; 3 H Tanaka (Japan)
9,755; 4 R Chempor (Ling) 9,700; 5 I Mankov
(Bela) 8,687; 8 Li Xiaoshuang 8,675; 7 Y
Heisskeda (Japan) 9,600; 8 J Jan-soo (S Kor)

7.850. Horisontal bar: 1. A Vilector (Get 9.812; 2 Intralecto 9.775; 3 = K Dourse (Bul), Zhang Jinga (Chi 9.750; 6 Sonero 9.725; 8 N San-dro (Rom) 9.857; 7 6 Pret (g. 9.650; 8 0 Kar-bonerico (Pau), 8.925; Wooteo's appendus finale: Beans 2 No Hullen (Chi 9.900; 2 = L Halas: Seaas: 2 no Fulent (17) 9.502; 2= 1. Podicopiese fifth, 0 Mocentu (18) 9.837; 4= 5 Miler (15) 9.737; 5 0 No. 9.737; 5 0 No. Hostose (Rus) 9.756; 7 Quo la (7) 9.825; E Croshese (Rus) 9.552. Floor: 1.6 Segean (Ram) 9.855; 2 \$ 1.196 (Ch) 9.675; 3 1. Lyen (Ir) 9.625; 4 Mo Hallan 9.600; 5 J. Lyenc (Sp) 9.462; 6 E Americ (Rom) 9.437; 7 = Mocentus, Podicopiese (Illin) 6.037. Final. McDal.S Table.

Impan United States ice hockey Nett.: Boston 5 Buffolo 3; Winnipeg 4 Anaheim 3; Coloredo 8 Pittsburgh 5 (OT); Detrot 5 Van-countr 3.

Rugby League
HALIFAX WORLD CUP Group Three (Wales:
Park): Wates (12) 28, France (0) 8, Wales:
Tries Summ 3, Deversor, Harris; Goals Deves

Andre Agassi, the world No 1, has with-drawn from the Lyon Open, which starts on 16 October. The Australian Open statis on 16 October. The Australian Open crampion has not recovered from a chest muscle injury he sustained during the Davis Cup semi-final two weeks ago.

SETKO MEN'S SUPER TOURNAMENT (tokyo) Singles First Round: C Carato (b) in 5 Oneper (Auc) 6-3 7-6; J Bates (48) bt 8 Shelton (US) 6-7 7-6 7-5; H Dreelement (Ger) 6-3 6-2; M Philippouss (Aus) bt A Morar (Ger) 6-3 6-2; M Philippouss (Aus) bt A Morar (Ger) 6-3 6-3. See-and Round: J Ellingi (Neth) bt T Ho (US) 4-8 6-3 6-2; K Carlsen (Den) 6-3 6-3. See-and Round: J Ellingi (Neth) bt T Ho (US) 4-8 6-3 6-2; K Carlsen (Den) bt A Kirckstein (US) 6-6 7-7 Furten (US) 10 S Stole (Aus) 6-3 -8 6-1; G koniservic (Croe) bt L Gloria (US) 6-7 6-4 7-6; R Krejscok (Hebr) bt A Cribren (US) 7-5 3-6 7-6. Deutsless First Round (GS end/jr. A Richardson and O Sapsford bt G Motormura and T Sato (Japan) 6-1 7-5; Marinevic and Matsucka bt Sates and T Herman 7-6 6-3. 5 Etberg and H Holm (Swe) bt A Foster and R Smith (Bah) 6-3 6-3.

FOOTBALL RESULTS UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY

(at Viking statium, Stavenger, Nonew's Steiner Pedersen sent off, 47)

LITA AUTUMN SATELLITE (Birmingham) Sec-ond rounds G Maydi (Aut) M.E. Haussner (Fr) 6-4 6-4; P Kuhn (SA) bt 1 Fox (GB) 6-4 7-5; R Koeng (SA) bt T Hand (GB) 6-2 6-2; B Cov-an (GB) bt P Hand (GB) 6-3 7-6; I Heuberg, et (Set) bt N Wesl (GB) 6-3 7-6; I Maria (Swif) bt S Hommel (Neth 4-8 7-6 6-1; C Beecher (GB) bt N Gould (GB) 7-8 4-8 6-4; S Hordoza (US) bt S Bandermann (Ger) 6-4 6-4.

TODAY'S NUMBER

2m

The profit in US dollars (£1.2m) that Sweden had expected to make from this summer's World Athletics Championships in Gothenburg, Instead, they were a financial flop which vesterday led to the resignation of Bernt Groon. the Swedish federation chairman.



Redknapp (right) contributes to the conspiracy to keep the ball away from Gary Pallister (third from right) during England's training session in Norway yesterday

Venables ends experimental era

Football

GLENN MOORE reports from Oslo

Continuity is what football managers strive for above all else. From it flows understanding, consistency and, so the theory goes, success

However, it is also the most elusive feature of the international game. The chance of the same II men avoiding injury, loss of form and other domestic difficulties for a whole mouth is slim indeed.

It is five years since England fielded an unchanged side - it was in the first two matches under Graham Taylor. Against Norway tonight, Terry Veoables is able to send out a team with only three changes - a lev-el of continuity unsurpassed in 21 internationals since the spring of 1993.

Stuart Pearce comes in for the injured Graeme Le Saux, Paul Gascoigne's groin injury lets in Robert Lee, and Gary Pallister, injured for the draw with Colombia, replaces Steve Howey, who is himself injured.

That these changes are all enforced is significant. It appears the time for experimenting is almost over. "Given the players available I would have picked the same team if this was a competitive match," Venables said. That suggests Gary Neville is

now shead of Rob Jones at right-back, David Seaman is coofirmed as the No I goalkeeper, and Alan Shearer, despite failing to score for England in more than a year, re- and he's very good at this game.

ACROSS

Home fixture for City

Wagner work (8)

Heavenly time! (9)

almost? (4)

13 Government depart-

15 Twiggy's pub in divine

17 Ingredient of hummus,

fore one (6) 19 Party-leader feel bitter

20 Youth, for example, lies

these days? (7)

about (4)

a thin mixture, put be-

situation (6)

ment feed NEC badly

10 Night drug, please, to be made up (8-7)

Standard fails badly in 24

ward. Put Graeme Le Saux and Paul Gascoigne back, add Darren Anderton for Dennis Wise or Steve McManaman. and, maybe, David Platt for Jamie Redknapp, and you have Venahles' ideal XI. Peter Beardsley is injured, hut Nick Barmby may well retain his place wheo he recovers.

The positions of Barmby, Redknapp and Neville will obviously be strengtheoed by a good performance tonight. So will McManaman's claims, After three substitute appearances and a first start against Colombia, he has the chance to establish himself.

Lars Bohinen, who lines up for

Norway against England in Oslo

tonight, yesterday admitted that

the controversial agent Rune Hauge, whose "gifts" brought

George Graham down at Arse-

nal, was heavily involved in his cut-price £750,000 move from

Nottingham Forest to Blackburn.

mains the preferred centre-for- authority on the game," the 23year-old said yesterday. "There are only so many times you can come on as a substitute and do well. I have been in the squad for a while and played my first full game. I should oow be able to express myself. If you want to achieve things you should aim to be the star player whichever team you play for."

McManaman will start on the left. "It is not the free role I have at Liverpool. It is more of a wide-midfield-cum-winger, but it is a position I have played in

"I expect him to give us width when he can," Venables said, adding, "hut if he cannot find space on the wing be has



want him to attack them."

Hauge involved in Bohinen transfer

the addition of Pearce's 59 caps the average is 15. Four players are under 24 and the midfield five (Barmby will play just behind Shearer) have made 20 appearances between them.

But, while it may be raw in parts, this team is full of promise. Who will be around to realise it is, however, still a matter of debate.

The weekend report that Venables was approached by Internazionale has been swiftly followed by a denial from the Italian club. However, the Italians have good reason to deny the story: they are expected to appoint Roy Hodgson, Switzerland's English-born coach, as

the truth it does not mean Veoables was not approached. A third party could well have inquired as to his availability with, or without, the knowledge of Inter. This is the most likely situation.

Whatever the truth, and Venables said he would discuss the issue further after this match, attitudes within the FA are un-

likely to change. The team themselves seem unconcerned. They are concentrating on what is only their second away match under Venables. The first, in Dublin, never even reached half-time but, in the 27 minutes played, England looked very uncomfortable

now a first-team regular.

failed a random drugs test car-

ried out by the club. But Lavety

will escape punishment by the Scottish Football Association as

the drug is oot performance-en-

And even if they are telling at the back. Similar problems had appeared during travels with his predecessor, of their last 12 completed matches over-seas England have won only in San Marino and Turkey.

"Playing away gives me a chance to find out if we enjoy defending," Venables said. "At Wembley we have to deal with counter-attacking. Here is a team that will take the game to

Norway, who include six Premiership players, will be a stern test. Although their fourth place in the world standings makes a mockery of that list, they are effective and organised.

They give a debut to 20-year-old fore Flo, the younger brother of Sheffield United's Jostein, but are otherwise experienced. This is a side that has developed together. Every other player has at least 20 caps and, apart from Flo, and 32-year-old Erik Thorstvedt, all are aged 25 to 29, the peak years for a footballer.

England could be in a similar position in a few years' time. For now several members of the team are still learning and they will be happy with a draw. £70,000 from the Vauxhall Con-It should not be beyond them. But, with Dublin again in mind, one bopes that it is their perference side Welling, from whom they also signed Steve Finnan, formance, good or bad, that is Barry Lavety, St Mirren's the centre of attention tomor-Scotland Under-21 striker, has

4-3-3): Thorstvedt (Journal Association), R Johnson (Besidas), schoum), Rjernebye (Liverpon) (Rischoum), Restatel (Liver), Low (Wimbledon); T Flo (Tromer Wimbledon); T Flo (Tromer Min), Jakobsen (Rischoumsen), H

FREE

Clubs go it alone in talks with TV

Rugby Union STEVE BALE

Having formed themselves into a limited company, English First Division clubs are already quite separately from the Rugby Football Union - talking to television companies so they can at least get some idea of how much money they will have to finance a professional game next season.

Far from being as emollient about their stand-off with the RFU as Tony Hallett, the union's secretary, the clubs are growing increasingly impatient for their governing body to come up with figures or let them

get on with it.
With parallel developments taking place in Wales and France, and even the Scots clubs growing disillusioned, talk of clubs attempting to proceed independently is less fanciful than it once appeared. "It's over-alarmist to predict a split but we must know that if it came to the crunch we could do it and they must know that if it came to the crunch we would do it." Peter Wheeler, the president of Leicester, said yesterday.

Wheeler is in regular contact with Hallett on behalf of the First Division clubs, who have declined to take a formal part in the RFU's commission on professionalism and instead are drawing up their own proposals. "We strongly believe it's going to be in both the union's and the clubs' interest for us to be doing things together," Wheeler said. "But we desperately need to

know as quickly as possible what income the clubs are going to get next year from the competitions in which they play, be-cause in the meantime other clubs can come in and pick off our players. We are sitting here with players who are being made all sorts of offers and it's

very unsettling."
The introduction of Sir John Hall's millions into Newcastle is the principal cause of Wheeler's concern, making it a neat irony that the clubs are using Sir John's business acumen in their various negotiations.

The clubs see entry ioto a European competition next season as an essential means of underwriting professionalism and are concerned that the tension souriog telations between the RFU and the rest of the Five Nations may yet block English participation.

"I'm not sure whether the European competitioo isn't just a pawn in the RFU's game. Wheeler said. "But we need there to be a European competition because of the income it can generate, even if the union doesn't like the way it is

A. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. C.

spectioo. "There is oothing il-

The Football Association are preparing to forward details of the move to Fifa for their inlegal or anything for Blackhurn to worry about," Bohinen said. "It was natural for me to speak to him for different reasons he's Norwegian, he has dooe all the Norwegian transfers to English football for the last 10 years

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

bank-cashier, say, with a

One takes all the time

ven in the Cotswolds?

DOWN

sham condition (8)

Graduate's late in this

Lifting the foot that is

Instruction to players -

Get unfait treatment as

ballerina with no solo

lay on line! (5-9)

in the world (15)

rally (4)

12 Leicester undeveloped, 26 Bird in the water, natu- 14

25 Destination, having dri-

"I know all about George Graham and that Hauge is not a licensed agent. But that doesn't mean I can't ask him for advice. I used an official Danish Fifa agent and he can use anybody he wants for advice. It's not illegal. Blackburn cannot be fined or suspended or anything like that."

A Fifa spokesman, Keith Cooper, confirmed that the world governing body are waiting for the documentation regarding the Bohinen transfer to reach them. "You should not build this up too much," he said.

"We've simply become aware through the media that a certain person - Rune Hauge - appeared to be involved in this deal. We need to find out how

Doh in the French style

of stringed instrument

It happens price is af-fected in the training

period (14) Popular team incarcer-

Some paving the way in

fog-lane, maybe (9) 16 Test, rain affected, is put

into difficulties (8)

18 Ask earnestly for fairy-

19 Pair of names in Open

Weekly pay unopened for a very long time? (4)

ated (6)

tales (7)

shorter (5) reaching flag? (6)
Speech in the house (7) 22 Oriel floundering in riv-

directly he was involved. If the player went to Hange and asked him to negotiate the transfer and Hauge said, 'No, I can't be-cause I'm not allowed to, so I suggest you deal with another agent', we can't hold anything against Mr Hauge. That would have been the absolute correct and booest thing to do."
Forest, meanwhile, are giving

a month's trial to the Portuguese international Antonio Pacheco. The 29-year-old, twice a European Cup finalist with Benfica, is available on a free transfer, having bought out his contract with Sporting Lisbon.

The former England defeoder Russell Osman is to sue Bristol City for wroogful dis-

The former England striker Clive Allen is on the look-out for his 11th club after being remissal - citing the fact that they have not improved since he left. Osman was originally thought leased following just three ap-pearances for Cartisle United in to have come to an out of court settlement with the club after the Second Division. planning to take them to a tribunal following his sacking as Birmingham have signed the manager last November. teenage winger Steve Barnes for

But last night Osman announced he was to sue the club to recover money he believes is due to him under the contract he had at the Secood Divisioo club. He still had 19 months of his contract to run wheo he was

The Newcastle striker Paul Kitson will be out of action for the next six weeks after undergoing an operation for a hernia

hancing. "It is a social drug," his manager, Jimmy Bone, said.

Unbeaten Lammtarra is retired to stud

RICHARD EDMONDSON AND SUE MONTGOMERY

Lammtarra's brief and heilliant career is over. The chestnut colt who has compiled a racing record equalled only by the great Mill Reef was yesterday retired to stud. The three-year-old is to stand

at Newmarket's Dalham Hall Stud, but what is British hreeders' gain is very much the punters' loss. Lammtarra has had the shortest career (9min 5.38sec) of any champion raceborse. After winning his only start at two, he captured the hal-lowed trehle of the Derby, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on his only three starts this season. He was

Turf at Belmont Park later this month hut yesterday that plan was abandooed. "He had a hard race in the Arc and the view we have takeo is that the Breeders' Cup is going to come too sooo for him," Simon Crisford, the racing manager of Godolphin, under whose banoer Lammtarra ran, said.

Of course it is a shame he woo't he racing again for the people. They won't get the opportunity to see more of him, but he really did not have that much more to prove. He won the three hest races in the world and he heat all the best horses around. In his work and races he gave everything he had. He was a willing horse."

As the season progressed, however, tales of Lammtarra's increasing intractability began to emerge from Newmarket. Some flesh was put on these

erratically before the Arc. Godolphin insisted, though, that this has little to do with the horse's retirement, "His temperament did not come into the equation," Crisford said.

Lammtarra's breeding is not suspect though. His sire was Nijinsky, a son of the legendary stallion Northern Dancer, and his dam was Snow Bride, who won the Oaks. He will command a substantial fee to coosort with around 50 of the world's choicest broodmares next spring. By comparison, Nashwan, the 1989 Derby winner, has a £40,000 fee and Sadler's Wells, the most expensive stallion in Europe, costs upwards of £100,000.

But only five per cent of horses, no matter how well-bred or talented, make it as stallions and Lammtarra will have to start from scratch in his new career.

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expected to prove his powers further in the Breeders' Cup rumours when the colt behaved Racing, page 25 Teenager fails drug test again

Athletics

Lisa de Villiers, the 14-year-old South African banned for four years earlier this year for taking an anabolic steroid, has tested positive again for the same substance.

Banele Sindani, the Athletics South Africa secretary general, vesterday confirmed that de Villiers, the youngest athlete to fail a drugs test, showed nandrolone again in her test oo 24 Sentember.

Sindani said that ASA would like to believe the

to investigate the reasons for the positive test afresh." De Villiers was banned after testing positive for nandrolone and the stimulant fencamfamine

April, but said: "We will have

at the South African Junior Championships in April. She had competed in the Under-17 100 metres, 200m and long jump. According to International Amateur Athletic Federation rules, athletes must be available for three out-of-competition tests during the banned period. The September test was the first

of three for de Villiers. Diane Modahl, who gave presence of nandrolone was birth to a girl, Imani, oo Sunday related to the test done in night, will, as expected, be re-

to IAAF arbitration, whose doping commission, meeting in Paris this week, have endorsed the decision, taken in August by the full Council, to refer her case. There had been rumours

quired to submit her doping case

that the death of leading commission member Prof Manfred Donike might alter federation policy on the Modahi case. Modahi's husband, Vicente, and a medical expert. Professor

Simoo Gaskill, will be in Paris today hoping to persuade IAAF officials to inspect scientific evidence which led to a British Athletic Federation panel upholding Modahl's appeal against a four-year ban in July.